

# European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme (EIE WP – 2022 calls)

3 March 2022  
*GR/CY info day by NCPs*

**Christina NANOU**

*Project Adviser*

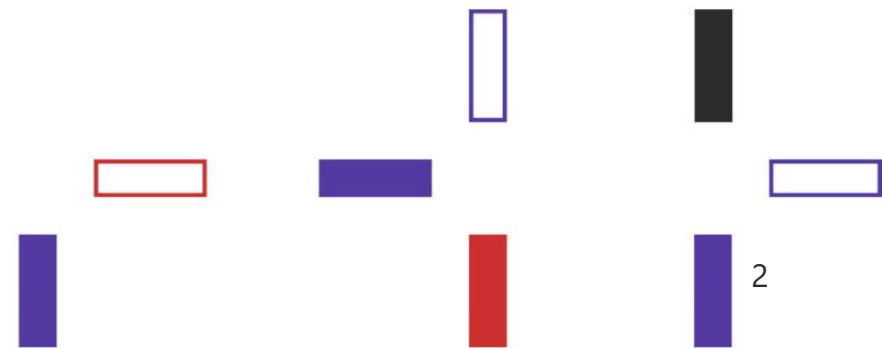
*European Innovation Council and SME  
Executive Agency (EISMEA) – Unit I.01*

European  
Innovation  
Council



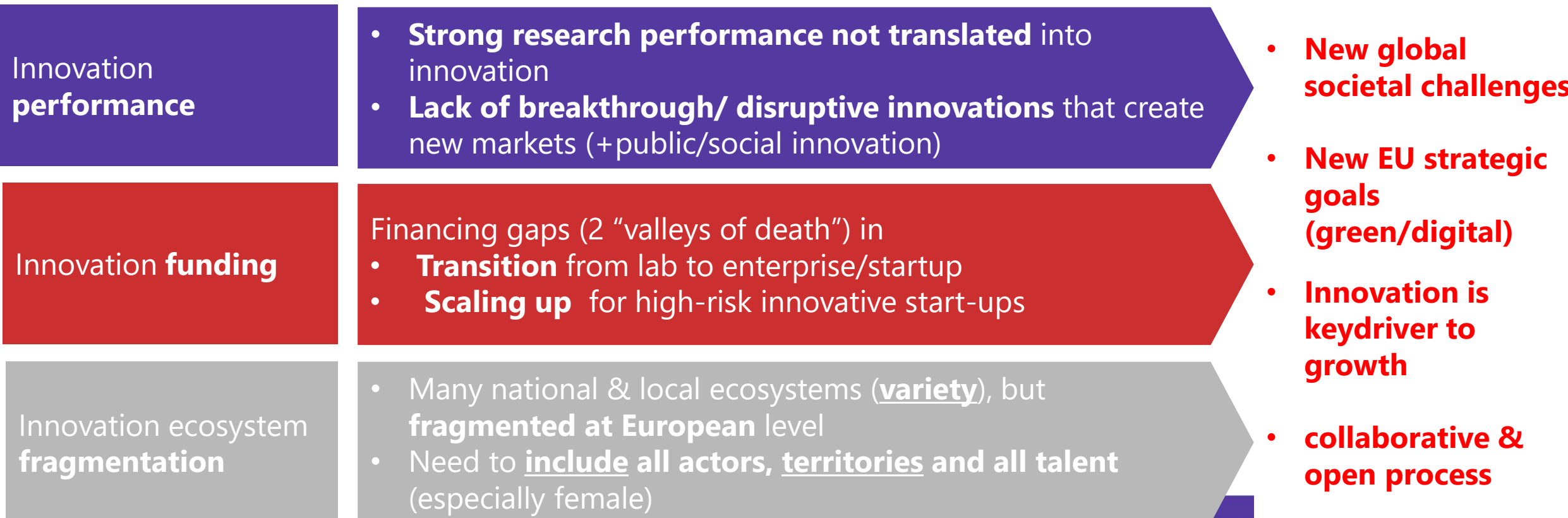


# Introduction on the EIE work-programme 2021-2022





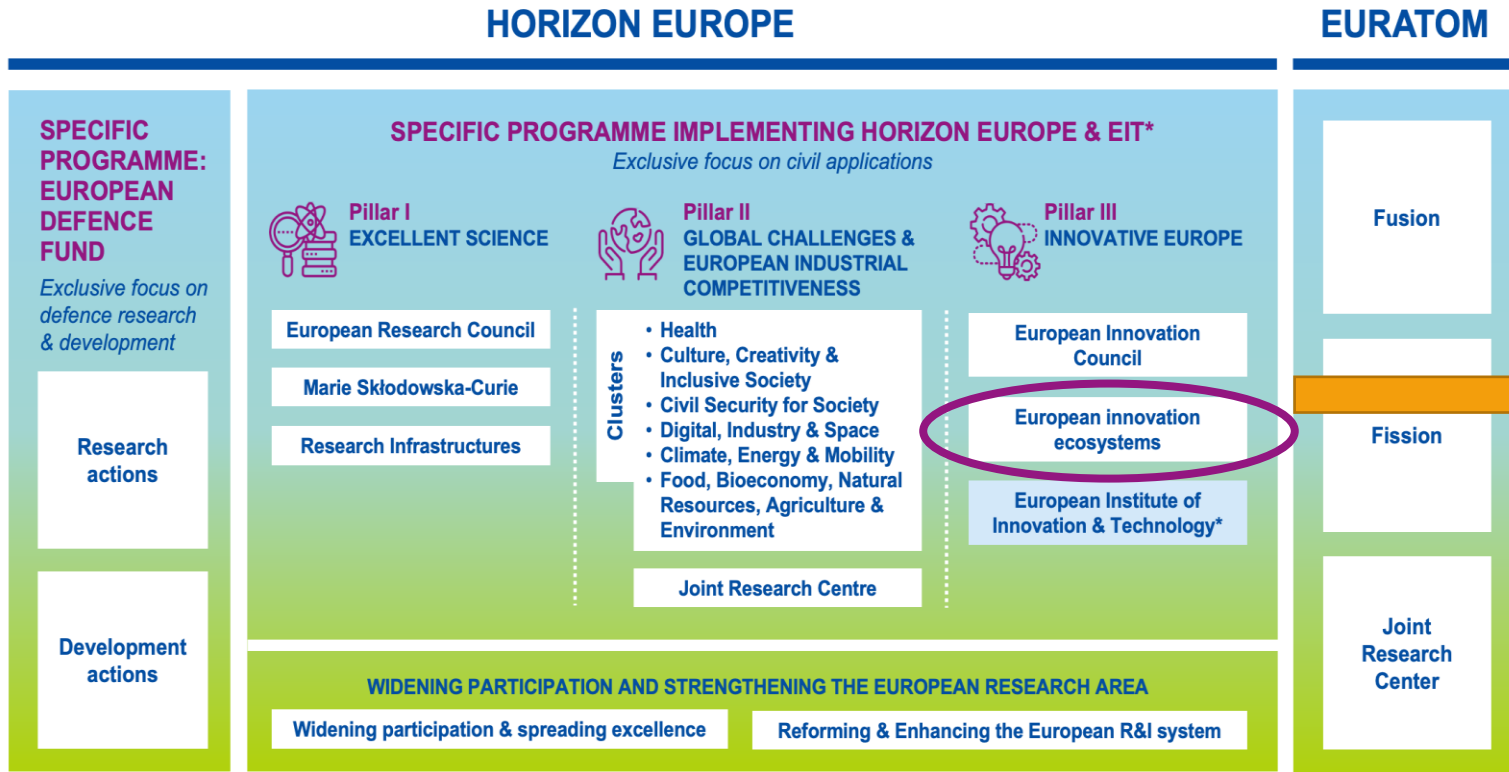
# Why Innovation Ecosystems? What is holding back innovation in EU?





# European Innovation Ecosystems in Horizon Europe

- Horizon Europe is implemented through **work programmes** which set out funding opportunities.



## European Innovation Council

- Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

## European innovation ecosystems

- Connecting with regional and national innovation actors

## European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

- Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation

€ 10.5 billion, incl. up to € 500 million for ecosystems

€ 3 billion

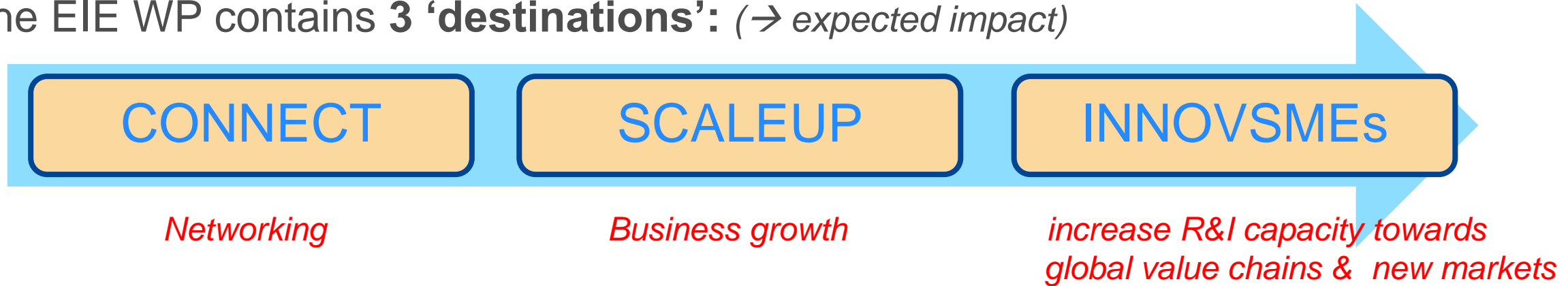
**Pillar 3 – Open Innovation:**  
stimulating market-creating breakthroughs and ecosystems conducive to innovation

\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme



## European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme (EIE WP)

- Aims to create more **connected**, **inclusive** and **efficient** innovation ecosystems that **support the scaling of companies** and spur innovation to address important challenges in a responsible way.
- The EIE WP contains 3 '**destinations**': (→ *expected impact*)



- **Bottom-up approach**
- **Complementarity:** EIC, EIT, WIDERA WP, Digital Europe, EEN, RIS3...



## European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme (EIE WP)

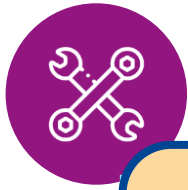
### CONNECT destination

#### Expected impact



**Interconnected**, **inclusive** and more **efficient** innovation ecosystems across Europe that draws on the existing strengths of European, national, regional and local ecosystems and pulls in new, less well-represented stakeholders and less advanced in innovation territories, to set, undertake, and achieve **collective ambitions towards challenges for the benefit of the society**, including **green, digital, and social transitions**.





## 2022 calls

CONNECT

SCALEUP

INNOVSMEs

## TOPICS

Interconnection  
of Innovation  
Ecosystems

1) Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems **(CSA)**

**OPEN since 11 Jan 2022**

2) Implementing co-funded action plans for interconnection of innovation ecosystems **(COFUND)**

**Will open: 14/6**

Innovation  
Procurements

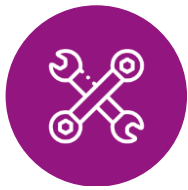
3) Stimulating innovation procurement **(COFUND)**

**Will open: 14/6**

Social Innovation

4) Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems **(CSA)**

**Open since 11 Jan 2022**



# Performance of EU Member States innovation systems

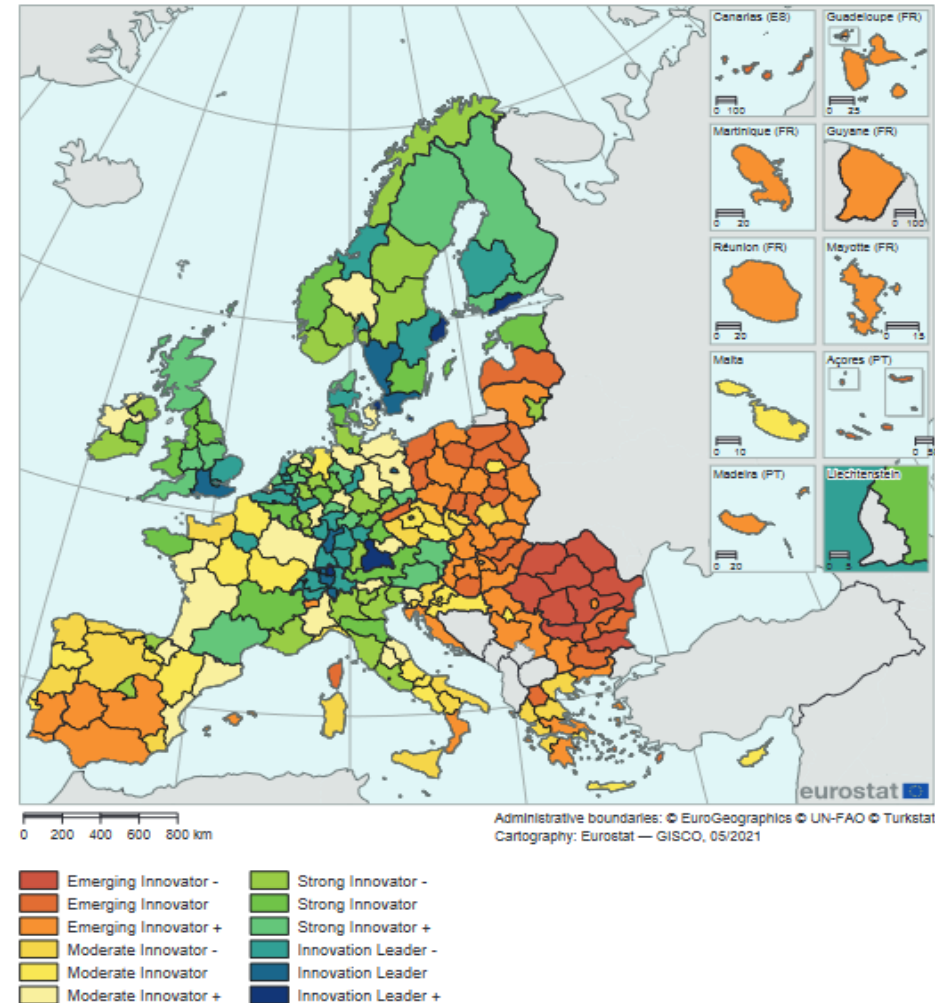
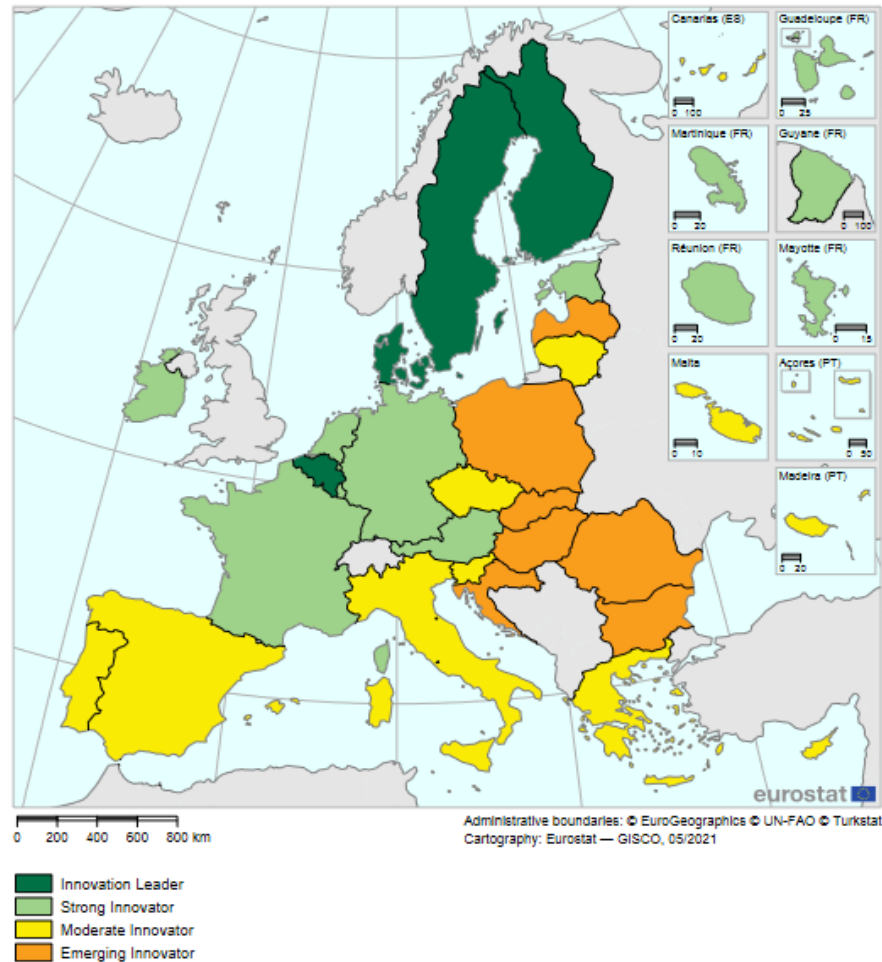
European Innovation Scoreboard 2021

17

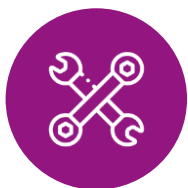
Regional Innovation Scoreboard 2021

5

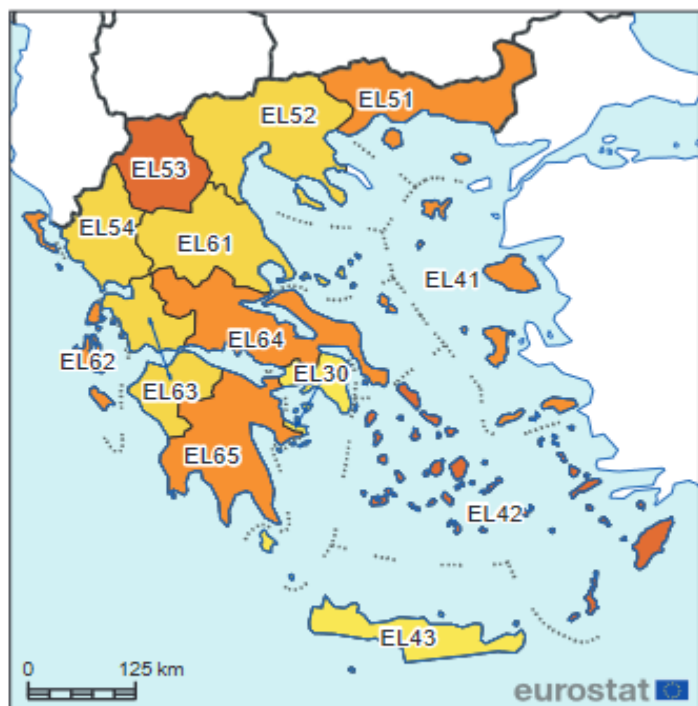
Figure 4: Map showing the performance of EU Member States' innovation systems







# Performance of EU Member States innovation systems



Map administrative boundaries: ©EuroGeographics ©UN-FAO ©Turkstat

NUTS	Region	RII	Rank	Group	Change
EL3	Attiki	86.9	139	Moderate	27.3
EL41	Voreio Aigaio	63.4	185	Emerging +	26.2
EL42	Notio Aigaio	47.6	220	Emerging	15.6
EL43	Kriti	82.1	147	Moderate	24.8
EL51	Anatoliki Makedonia, Thraki	56.4	198	Emerging +	22.8
EL52	Kentriki Makedonia	77.8	158	Moderate -	30.0
EL53	Dytiki Makedonia	49.5	211	Emerging	12.2
EL54	Ipeiros	71.0	171	Moderate -	36.0
EL61	Thessalia	74.4	163	Moderate -	30.8
EL62	Ionia Nisia	60.2	189	Emerging +	35.6
EL63	Dytiki Ellada	71.8	169	Moderate -	23.9
EL64	Stereia Ellada	62.6	186	Emerging +	14.9
EL65	Peloponnisos	59.0	190	Emerging +	22.2

*RII*: performance in 2021 relative to that of the EU in 2021. *Rank*: rank performance in 2021 across all regions. *Group*: respective sub-group. *Change*: performance change calculated as the difference between the performance in 2021 and 2014 relative to that of the EU in 2014.

Greece is a Moderate Innovator and includes 13 regions.

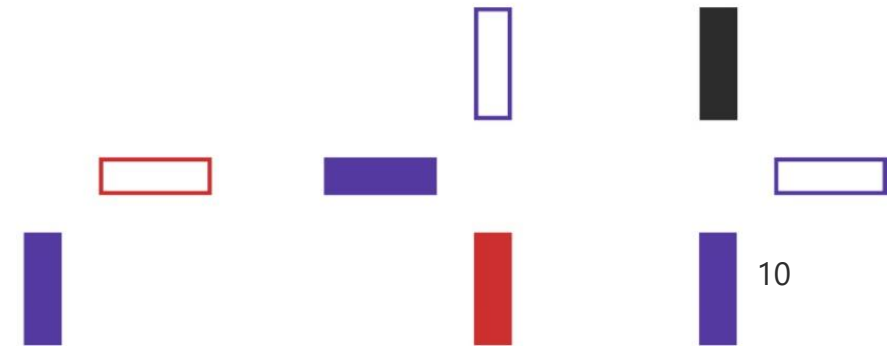
Attiki (EL3) and Kriti (EL43) are the two most innovative regions. In total there are six Moderate and seven Emerging Innovators. Performance relative to the EU in 2014 has increased for all regions, and most strongly for Ipeiros (EL54) and Ionia Nisia (EL62).



Destination: CONNECT - Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems

Topic: HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-01-01:

# 01) Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems





# HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-01-01

## Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems

### Target groups

*Public national, regional and/or local authorities, private organisations, public-owned enterprises, professional associations, clusters, accelerators, innovation hubs, incubators, technology parks, and/or any other representatives that lead initiatives/networks that support the deployment of innovation.*

### Expected Outcomes

- Reduce the innovation divide in Europe fostering **connectivity**, improving the **innovation capacities** of MS/AC
- **Increased inclusiveness** by **enlarging the participation** of more diverse innovation **actors** and broaden the participation among **territories**, in **already existing successful initiatives and networks** that interconnect European innovation ecosystems and promote the deployment and scale-up of innovative solutions;

### Eligibility criterion

Consortia: at least 3 legal entities of which:

- At least 1 entity from **modest (emerging)/ moderate** innovator region
- At least 1 entity from **strong / innovation leader** innovator region

*\*Reference: [Regional Innovation Scoreboard](#) or [European Innovation Scoreboard](#) (for entities representing national authorities)*

Type of Action	CSA (100% funding)	EC
Total Indicative budget	4 m €	
Expected EU contribution / project	0.5 m €	
Expected grants to be signed	8	
Estimated project duration	-	
Additional eligibility criterion	At least 3 legal entities from MS/AC + Innovator regions criterion	
Lump sum grant	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.	



## Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems

### Scope

Expanding the cooperation and enlarging the participation of more diverse innovation stakeholders and territories in existing successful initiatives and networks that support innovation deployment **e.g. clusters, accelerators, innovation hubs and platforms;**

#### Applicants should:

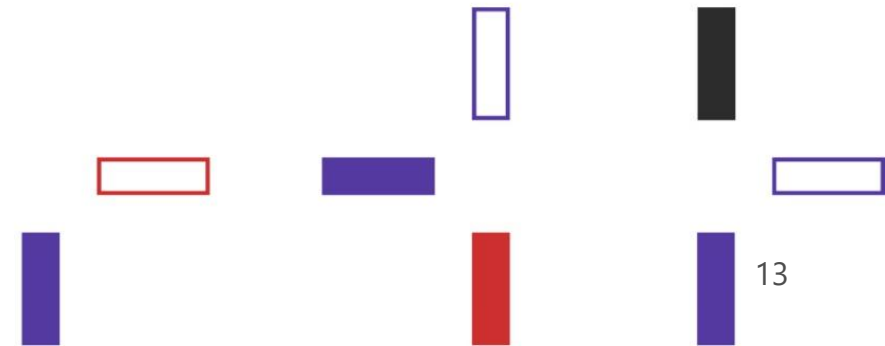
- **present existing initiatives/networks**, involved **stakeholders, activities**
- demonstrate they operate in EU and **explain why they are successful**
- describe the **“opening up” joint strategies** for more: a) diverse **actors**, b) **territories** (modest/moderate)
- explain the **EU added value & value for the network/initiative**
- explain **how the project will help modest/moderate in innovation territories** to attain a more competitive position
- demonstrate the **complementarity/alignment** with other national/regional/local policies/strategies (e.g. RIS3)
- describe the **proposed activities**, including:
  - ways to better **identify the needs** of actors / territories **and customise their services** (e.g. surveys, studies)
  - the **support to be provided** to innovation stakeholders, **training and soft skills** development, **networking and coordination**
  - **tools** to facilitate innovation, mutual learning
  - the **design of pilot schemes** with the view of filling possible gaps in relation to the provided services
  - joint **awareness raising and communication campaigns**



Destination: CONNECT - Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems

Topic: HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-01-02:

## 02) Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems





## Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems

### Target groups

*Social innovation actors/social entrepreneurs, SMEs, start-ups, accelerators and business incubators, investors, industry, foundations and philanthropy societies, universities and RTOs public-owned enterprises.*

### Expected Outcomes

- Active participation of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems, by ensuring their **interlinking and connection with all other actors**, with the aim to **ensure access to their entrepreneurial knowledge and skills**;
- Wider **access to alternative means of financing social innovations**
- Tested **innovation models with potential of scaling up and replicability**, and that are available for widespread use.

Type of Action	CSA (100% EC funding)
Total Indicative budget	3 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	0.5 m €
Expected grants to be signed	6
Estimated project duration	-
Additional eligibility criterion	At least 3 legal entities
Lump sum grant	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.





HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-01-02

## Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems

### Scope

To **raise awareness** & **ease the social entrepreneurs' access** to EU/national/regional/local innovation ecosystems.

### Proposals should:

Applicants should focus on the activities to:

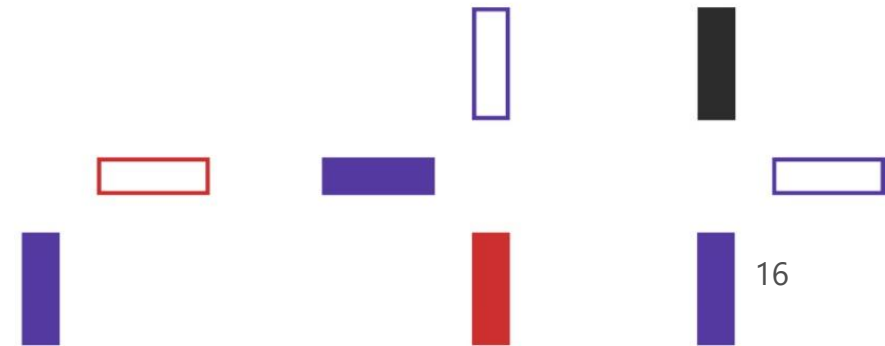
- improve **connections of social entrepreneurs to other innovation stakeholders** (+ universities, accelerators and incubators, networks of start-ups, industry, investors, philanthropy societies and the public sector)
- develop **business support services** e.g. toolkits, awareness raising, trainings on business skills
- creation and/or connection of **social innovation hubs/centres of excellence**;
- **integration of social innovation dimension** to existing tech-oriented hubs;
- detection of **possible innovation models** with potential of scaling and replicability at national, regional, and local level
- creation of **open digital platform** (or utilization of existing) to connect a global network of social entrepreneurs (best practices, financing, skills)



Destination: CONNECT - Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems

Topic: HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-01:

## 03) Implementing co-funded action plans for interconnection of innovation ecosystems





# HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-01

## Implementing co-funded action plans for interconnection of innovation ecosystems

### Target groups

*National and/or regional innovation authorities, private actors, all relevant key stakeholders of innovation ecosystems from across the quadruple helix, (+SMEs, start-ups, social innovators, public-owned enterprises, academia, RTOs, technology transfer centres, investors, foundations, clusters, associations and the civil society, the EEN).*

### Expected Outcomes

- Open, efficient inclusive and interconnected innovation ecosystems, for the **joint definition of visions and strategies**
- **Synergies, complementarities and collaboration** among stakeholders around **promising areas and challenges** of joint/European interest
- Increased **innovation capacities** in MS/AC, allowing innovators **to bring their ideas into the market**, innovations to be scaled up at EU level
- Better **links** between **territories**
- More innovation **co-investments**, fostering other funding leverages

Type of Action	COFUND (50%)
Total Indicative budget	8 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	2 m €
Expected grants to be signed	4
Estimated project duration	At least 5 years
Additional eligibility criterion	At least 3 legal entities from MS/AC
Set up of Grant Agreements:	Annual Work Plans For 1 <sup>st</sup> year: together with proposal



# HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-01

## Implementing co-funded action plans for interconnection of innovation ecosystems

### Scope

To **implement multi-annual joint activities** towards innovation deployment, while tackling challenges at EU, national, regional and local level.

### Proposals should:

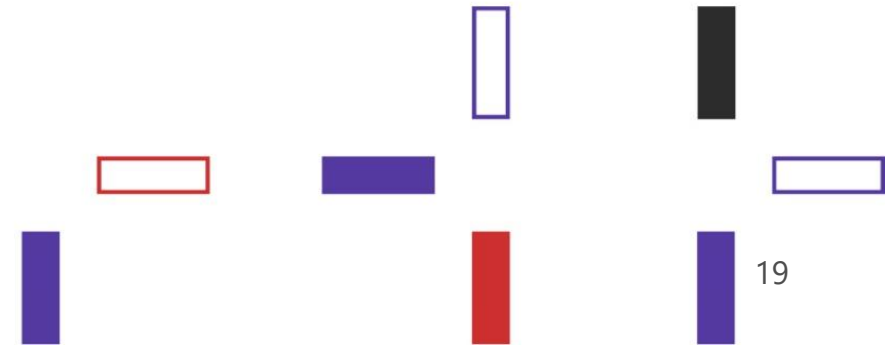
- Present **joint strategic visions** and **agreed** innovation action plans (+details in annual programme of activities)
- Explain the **reasons** for selecting the proposed **strategic areas of cooperation (joint or EU)**
- Describe the **activities, process and assets** and ensure:
  - a) participation of **private** sector (implementation and/or co-funding)
  - b) **inclusiveness & diversity** (actors + territories)
  - c) **complementarity and synergies** (funds, policies/strategies, programmes **EIT/KICs**, **EEN**)
- The **plan** should include:
  - a) **core** activities *e.g. structures/tools for networking, sharing best practices/knowledge, join knowledge assets (methods, data, processes), market analysis – access to markets/finance, training/skills, open infrastructures, supportive activities for scaleup of innovative solutions, joint public procurement, social innovators integration)*
  - b) **additional** joint activities (non eligible - in line with topic expected outcomes, e.g. cascade funding)
- **How** the consortium will implement these activities, clear **targets** (+indicators), **long term commitment**



Destination: CONNECT - Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems

Topic: HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-02:

## 04) Stimulating innovation procurement





# HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-02

## Stimulating innovation procurement

### Target groups

*Public national, regional and/or local authorities, public-owned enterprises, SMEs and start-ups, incubators, accelerators, research institutions and technological organisations.*

### Expected Outcomes

- Establish **long term policy frameworks** (sectoral policies)
- Adoption/scale up of **joint procurement initiatives (cross-European)**
- Improve **SMEs and buyers skills and capacity** (to match needs with innovative solutions)
- Adoption of **co-creation models** to stimulate SMEs' response to buyers needs

Type of Action	COFUND (50%)
Total Indicative budget	4,5 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	1,5 m €
Expected grants to be signed	3
Estimated project duration	At least 5 years
Additional eligibility criterion	At least 3 legal entities
Set up of Grant Agreements:	Annual Work Plans For 1 <sup>st</sup> year: together with proposal





# HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-02

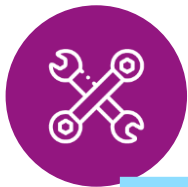
## Stimulating innovation procurement

### Scope

To **boost the innovation procurement** in Europe by engaging public and private buyers in the purchase of innovative solutions.

### Proposals should:

- Develop **action plans (+monitoring system)** by public authorities + **incentive mechanisms + policy frameworks**
- Design a **strategy and tools** for exploitation of outputs by other actors, **data collection**
- Encourage **dialogue and co-design of innovative solutions/products**: matchmaking, brokering and expertise gathering entities (*buyers, facilitators, competence centers*)
- Create **capacity and competence building**
- Facilitate **exchange on best practices** (legal, design, implementation)



## 2022 calls

CONNECT

SCALEUP

INNOVSMEs

## TOPICS

---

1) **Expanding** entrepreneurial ecosystems (CSA)

OPEN since 25 January 2022 (closes 10 May 2022)

---

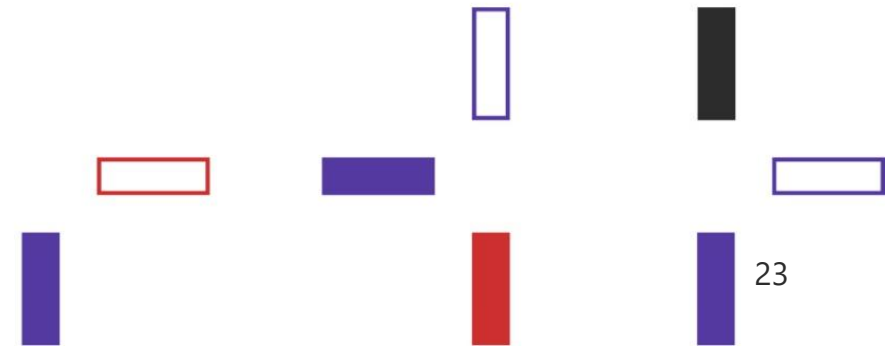
2) **Expanding** investment ecosystems (CSA)

Will open from 21 June 2022 to 4 October 2022



## Destination: SCALEUP - Elevating the scalability potential of European business

### 5) Expanding Entrepreneurial Ecosystems





# HORIZON-EIE-2022-SCALEUP-01-01

## Expanding Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

### Target groups

*Vocational schools, higher education establishments, public authorities in the **field of education and employment**, SMEs, corporations.*

### Expected Outcomes

- Improved **entrepreneurial education** and **skills** to **support business acceleration and digitalisation**; Increased **youth** (self) employability;
- Enhanced **entrepreneurial activity in developing innovation ecosystems** and its scale up across Europe or internationally;
- Raised awareness of **diverse business cultures and opportunities** across sectors and / or geographies.

Type of Action	CSA (100% EC funding)
Total Indicative budget	5 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	1 m €
Expected grants to be signed	5
Estimated project duration	<b>2 years</b>
Additional eligibility criterion	At least 3 legal entities (MS/AC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>at least 1 private sector</b> from <b>strong/leader region</b></li><li>• <b>at least 1 educational institutions</b> from <b>modest/moderate region</b></li></ul>
Lump sum grant	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.



# HORIZON-EIE-2022-SCALEUP-01-01

## Expanding Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

### Scope

To enhance **entrepreneurial skills of youth** in ‘**modest/emerging**’ and ‘**moderate**’ **innovation ecosystems** by supporting **entrepreneurial education through programmes** designed with the private sector and business acceleration entities

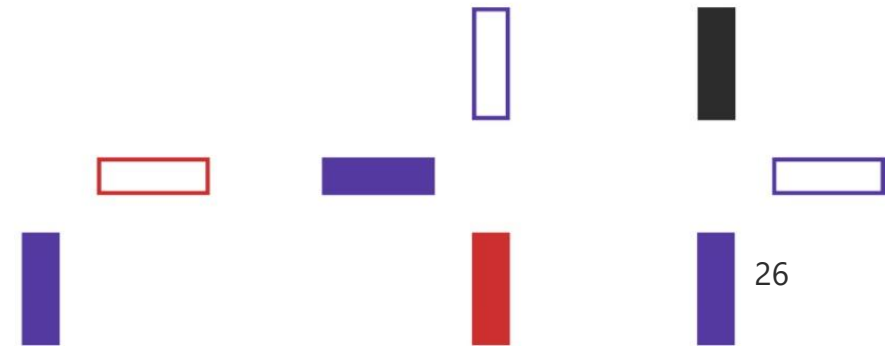
### Proposals should:

- Leverage on the **best practices** of the private sector - educational institutions existing collaboration.
  - Building on local talents for **knowledge and opportunities to develop their own businesses**.
  - Valorise high levels of **technical skills** in developing innovation ecosystems
- Include **activities of at least two (2) study years**, proposed jointly by:
    - ✓ **educational institutions** (‘**modest/emerging**’ and ‘**moderate**’ innovation ecosystems);
    - ✓ **the private sector from innovation hubs** (‘**strong innovators**’ and ‘**innovation leaders**’),to nurture **entrepreneurial skills** by activities e.g.:
    - *engagement of **business experts** into the implementation of educational programmes;*
    - *engagement of **students/graduates** into companies’ structures*
    - *engagement of **educational staff** in companies’ business processes,*
    - *organisation of **co-ideation challenges***



## Destination: SCALEUP - Elevating the scalability potential of European business

### 6) Expanding Investments Ecosystems







# HORIZON-EIE-2022-SCALEUP-02-01

## Expanding Investments Ecosystems

### Target groups

- *Business-acceleration providers: **incubators, accelerators, company builders, innovation agencies, business clubs and networks***
- *Public/private **VCs & networks**, national/regional **promotional banks***

### Expected Outcomes

- Increased access to capital and investments in **less connected innovation ecosystems**, enhancing their openness, competitiveness, and global potential;
- Increased **venture investments** and enabled **late-stage growth of local start-ups** in developing innovation ecosystems;
- Facilitated investors' access to the **flow of local deals**;
- Improved investors' knowledge on **regulatory frameworks** and networks to support joint **cross-border ventures in new markets**.

Type of Action	CSA (100% EC funding)
Total Indicative budget	5 m €
Expected EU contribution / project	1 m €
Expected grants to be signed	5
Estimated project duration	<b>2 years</b>
Additional eligibility criterion	At least 3 legal entities (MS/AC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 strong/leader +</li><li>• 1 modest / moderate innovator region</li></ul>
Lump sum grant	Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.



# HORIZON-EIE-2022-SCALEUP-02-01

## Expanding Investments Ecosystems

### Scope

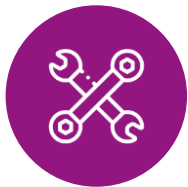
**Attracting foreign investors** into “modest’ and ‘moderate’ innovation ecosystems” by raising awareness of local innovation ecosystems and their start-ups, as well as the potential of the whole region, to capital providers from across Europe.

### Proposals should:

- Include activities of at least two (2) years, proposed jointly by:
  - ✓ **business acceleration service providers and/or investor networks and clubs** (**‘modest/emerging’ and ‘moderate’** innovation ecosystems);
  - ✓ **innovation hubs** (**‘strong innovators’ and ‘innovation leaders’**)

to facilitate the entry of funders in less connected innovation ecosystems through activities e.g.:

- ***assistance to investors for market access*** (info points for incentives, tax and legislation);
- ***events organisation to connect international with local investors;***
- ***best practices for market entry of investors;***
- ***peer-matching: investors and other networking activities to encourage joint ventures;***



# European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme (EIE WP)

## Timetable

Year	Destinations/ Calls	Topics	Call opening	Call deadline	Sumbitted proposals
<b>CONNECT</b>					
<b>2021</b>	<b>Call 1:</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2021-CONNECT-01-01</b> Preparatory action for setting up joint programmes among innovation ecosystems actors <b>HORIZON-EIE-2021-CONNECT-01-02</b> Building capabilities in innovation procurement	06-07-2021	26-10-2021 <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>25</b> <b>7</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>Call 1:</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-01-01</b> Towards more inclusive networks and initiatives in European innovation ecosystems <b>HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-01-02</b> Integration of social innovation actors in innovation ecosystems	11-01-2022 <b>OPEN</b>	26-04-2022	
	<b>Call 2:</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-01</b> Implementing co-funded action plans for interconnection of innovation ecosystems <b>HORIZON-EIE-2022-CONNECT-02-02</b> Stimulating innovation procurement	14-06-2022	27-09-2022	
<b>SCALEUP</b>					
<b>2021</b>	<b>Call 1:</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2021-SCALEUP-01-01</b> Expanding Acceleration Ecosystems <b>HORIZON-EIE-2021-SCALEUP-01-02</b> Scaling up deep tech ecosystems <b>HORIZON-EIE-2021-SCALEUP-01-03</b> Women TechEU	13-07-2021	10-11-2021 <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>50</b> <b>4</b> <b>391</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>Call 1:</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2022-SCALEUP-01-01</b> Expanding Entrepreneurial Ecosystems	25-01-2022 <b>OPEN</b>	10-05-2022	
	<b>Call 2:</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2022-SCALEUP-02-01</b> Expanding Investments Ecosystems	21-06-2022	04-10-2022	
<b>INNOVSMES</b>					
<b>2021</b>	<b>Call 1:</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2021-INNOVSMES-01-01</b> European Partnership on Innovative SMEs	22-06-2021	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>1</b>

# Be prepared



- Contact for any proposal relevant advice:  
[Enterprise Europe Network \(EEN\)](#)  
[National Contact Point \(NCP\)](#)
- Look for the **right partners** via the F&T Portal [partner search database](#).
- **Ask your questions** through the NCP or the [portal](#).  
Answers will be posted publicly a few days later in the portal.
- Keep an eye on the "**Topic related FAQ**".
- For **Lump Sum** info:  
Recording of EIE WP Info Day (Sept 2021): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-Pc30batVk>

(Go to the special presentation @ 3:12...)



# Thank you!

#EuropeanInnovationEcosystems



European  
Commission |