



# Understanding European Innovation Ecosystems

General Introductory Webinar

4 Mar 2024

An introduction to the concept and funding opportunities for 2024



 by Odysseas Spyroglou



# Turkey in Horizon 2020/HE Project

## Our objectives:

- **Raise awareness** of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe R&I programmes.
- Provide the Turkish Research Area with **training, networking events, valuable documentation, and online tools**.
- Strengthen the **capacity** of Turkey in science, technology, and innovation.
- Facilitate the **integration** of the Turkish Research Area into the European Research Area.



## Training Events

- Introductory
- Focus Groups
- IPR
- Access to Risk Finance
- Webinars
- Project Writing Camps



## SME Support

- 1-to-1 Support
- Project Writing Training
- Pitching Workshop
- Feasibility Reports
- Investment Readiness



## Networking

- Brokerage Events
- International Study Visits
- Award Ceremonies
- Conferences
- Info Days



## Tools

- Website
- Helpdesk
- Training Guides

# Our Team



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**ODYSSEAS SPYROGLOU**  
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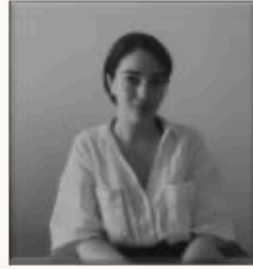
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# Odysseas Spyroglou

Innovation | Technology | R&D | Capacity Building |  
Technical Assistance

- **Engineering** (AUTH, GR), **ICT** (Leicester U, UK) and **Financial** (LSE, UK) background.
- **23+ years of working experience** in R&I, EU funds, capacity building in 6+ countries (Greece, Ireland, Turkey, Bahrain, Serbia, Israel)
- Successfully implemented over 70 projects of +100m € value.
- Specialise in **Digital Transformation, Innovation Management, Risk Finance, Project Management & Quality, Intellectual Property** and reengineering **business processes**.
- Long term Mentor & Coach in over 30 companies.
- Experience as Non-Executive Director in public (Listed) companies.



# EIE under HE

EIE aims to create and expand interconnected, inclusive, and efficient **innovation ecosystems** that support the **scaling of companies** and **spur innovation** to **address important challenges** in a responsible way.

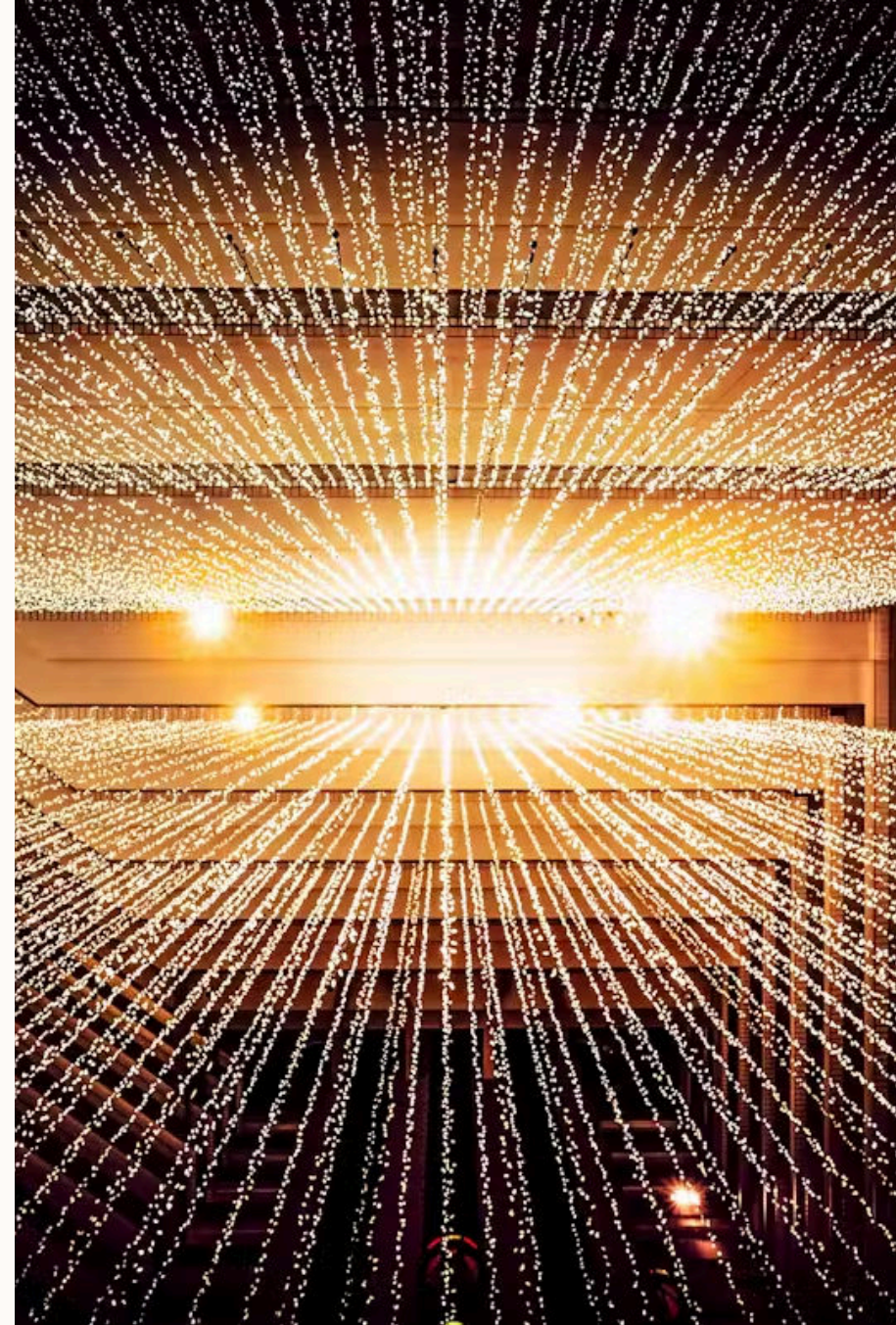


- Complementarity and Synergies with EIC & EIT and across HE.
- Create more connected and efficient innovation ecosystems.
- Drawing on existing strengths of national, regional and local ecosystems (Less well-represented actors and territories)
- Challenges for benefit of society (green, digital, and social transitions).

# What is an Innovation Ecosystem?

An ecosystem that:

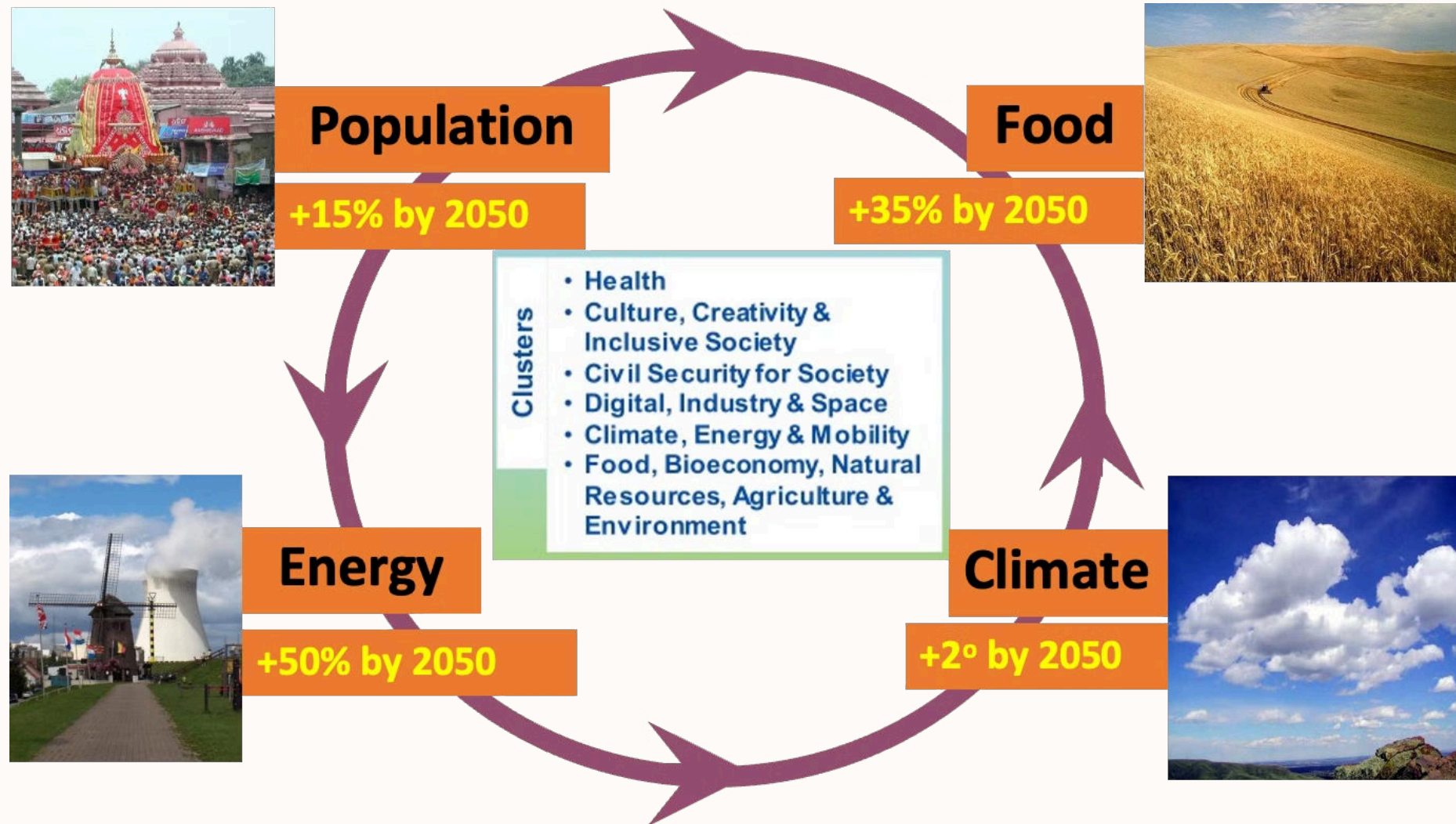
- brings together people or organisations whose **goal is innovation**,
- **links resources** (*funds, equipment, and facilities*), **organisations** (*HEI, R&I and technology organisations, companies, venture capitalists and financial intermediaries*), **investors** and **policymakers**.



# Why?

## To address the Global challenges

What are the problems we should focus on?



Aim **NOT** to find solutions, but to build the networks and links that will find the solutions.

# What are the future global challenges ?

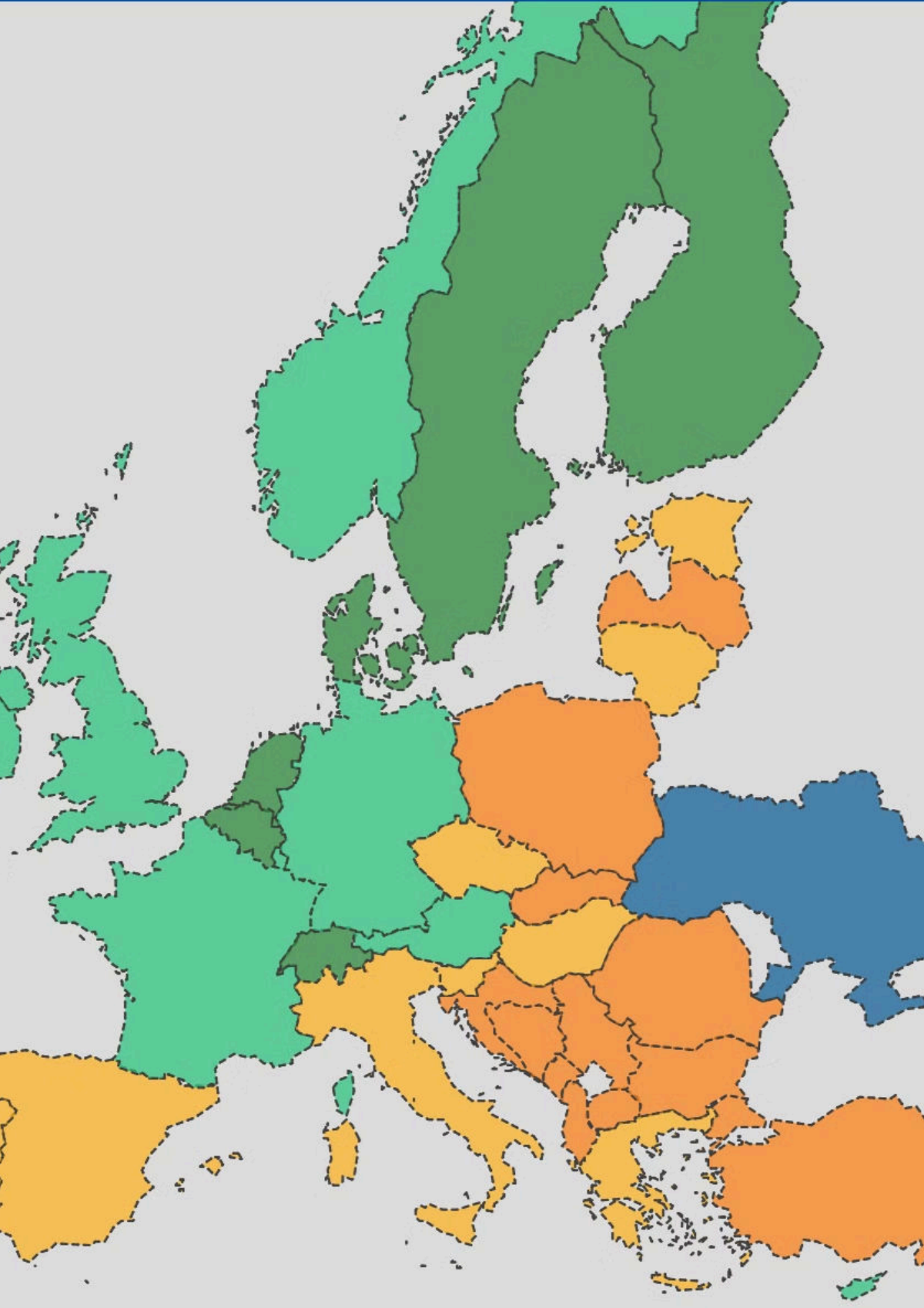


## The most important challenges in the next 3 years

- Climate change
- Energy supply
- Loss of biodiversity
- Strained healthcare systems and ageing European population
- Global competition for technological leadership
- Global instability and EU societal preparedness for large-scale disruptions
- Social justice
- Migration flows

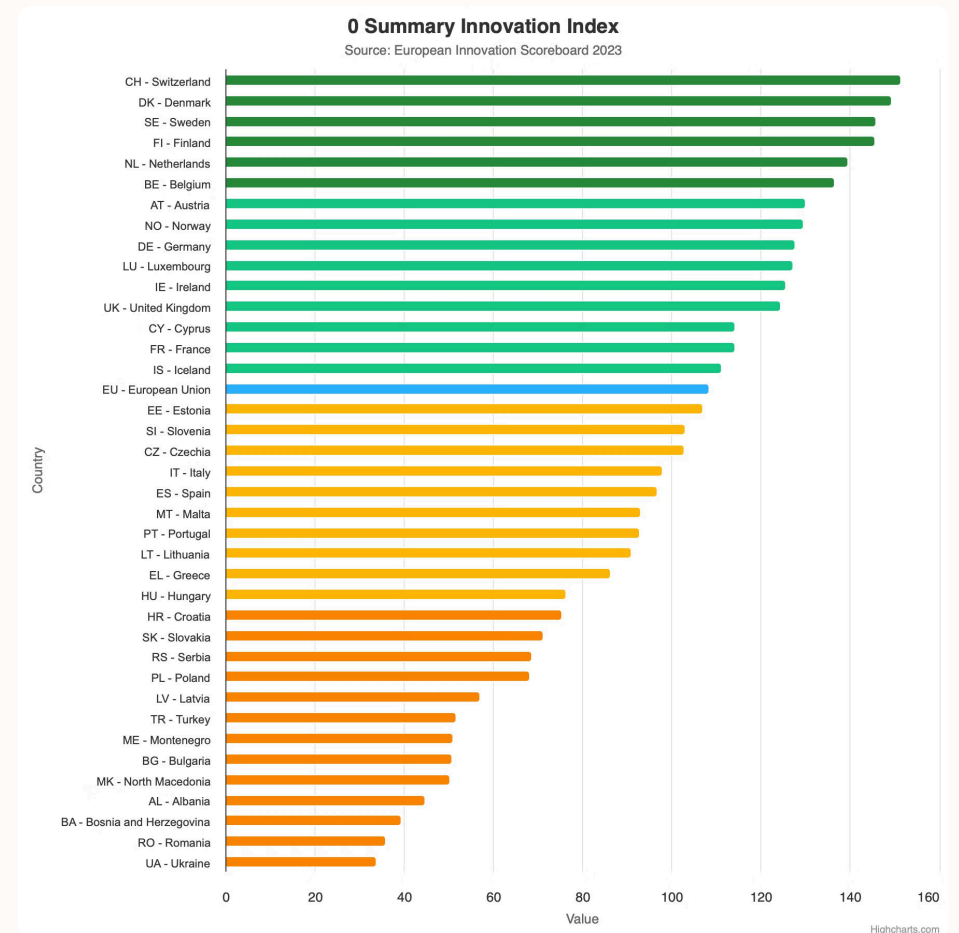
[Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Analysis](#)



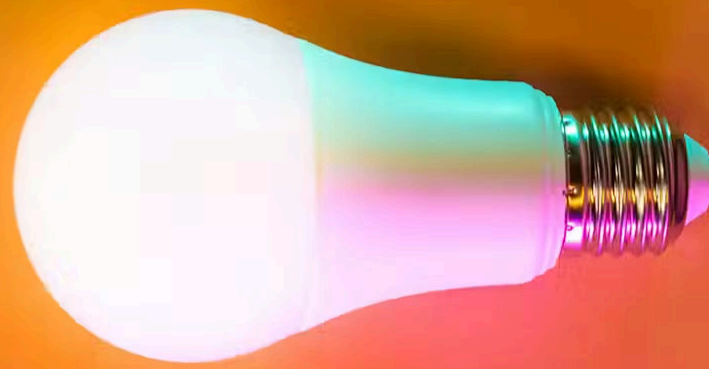


# Raising Innovation Capacity

## European Innovation Scorecard



- [Regional innovation scoreboard](#)
- [EIS - RIS 2023](#)



# Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems 2024

## Aim:

- Create & expand more **connected, inclusive, and efficient innovation ecosystems (IE)** that support the scaling of companies and spur innovation to address important challenges in a responsible way.
- Strengthen and expand **cooperation** between innovation players, foster **efficient, inclusive, and gender-diverse** ecosystems, and ensure **openness** and **cross-fertilization** of the IE within and beyond the EU's borders.

Title	Call ID	Deadline	Budget Per Project	Projects
The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform	HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-01	25 April 2024	2.500.000	1
Startup Europe	HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02	25 April 2024	1.500.000	6
<b>Expanding Academia-Enterprise Collaborations</b>	<b>HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02-01</b>	<b>19 September 2024</b>	<b>500.000</b>	<b>5</b>
Mutual learning and support scheme for national and regional innovation programmes	HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02-02	19 September 2024	100.000	10

# The African Union-European Union Innovation Platform [Connect-01-01]

Deadline: **25 April 2024**

Budget per project:  
**2.500.000**

Project (to be funded): **1**

## Call Aim

### ▼ Inclusion & **interconnection** of less represented regions/actors...

▮ more strongly integrated European ecosystem ▮ EU capitalise on experience, needs, visions, and perceptions of an increasingly diverse range of people, companies and places.

### ▼ Strengthening & expanding **cooperation** between innovation players...

▮ better support the **next generation** of innovative companies ▮ solutions lead the shift towards a more competitive EU and a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient world.

### ▼ Stronger **innovation performance**, increased **competitive sustainability**...

▮ more rapid transitions to a green and digital society, ecosystem integration can provide ecosystem actors and companies with access to new resource, markets, customers, and contribute to disruptive strategies and innovative solutions.

## Expected Outcomes

- Strengthening Research and Innovation (R&I) cooperation between the African Union (AU) and the European Union (EU).
- A comprehensive Strategy with Africa. Focus cooperation in four priority areas and the development of a joint AU-EU Innovation.
  - Public Health
  - Green Transition
  - Innovation & Technology
  - Capacities for Science,
- Support the implementation of the **AU-EU Innovation Agenda**.
  - **Create Networks Across the Innovation Chain:** Build connections among all parties involved in innovation, from idea generation to implementation, including both private and public sectors, educational and research institutions, financial bodies, and civil society organizations.
  - **Engage Citizens in Innovation:** Encourage the involvement of citizens in the innovation process to ensure that innovations are widely accepted and used by society. This includes promoting creativity, collective intelligence, gender equality, and youth participation.
  - **Enhance AU-EU Collaboration:** Improve coordination and collaboration between African Union and European Union innovation initiatives and their implementing bodies. This aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, capacity building, and mobility opportunities that meet the socio-economic needs of the regions involved.



 Research and innovation 

**EU-Africa cooperation in research and innovation**

The AU-EU HLPD formulates the long-term research and innovation policy priorities to strengthen Africa-Europe...

## Target Groups

- Networks of start-ups, innovators, incubators, accelerators.
- Academia, research and technology organisations (public and private sector).
- Think tanks, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civil society organisations, private and financial actors.

## Objective

- Multidisciplinary approach.
- Diverse stakeholders (e.g. networks of start-ups, innovators, incubators, accelerators, academia, research and technology organisations, think tanks, NGOs,)
- Private and financial sectors, the European Institute of Innovation and Technology's (EIT), Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), etc.).

 Following the end of the project, this platform is expected to continue operations without funding from Horizon Europe ▮ development of a sustainability plan is requested.

## Expected Impact

- **Build Connected Innovation Networks:** Strengthen EU-wide innovation by linking diverse regions and groups, focusing on societal challenges like sustainability and digital transformation.
- **Enhance Cross-border Collaboration:** Boost cooperation across regions to support sustainable and digital economic growth, promoting EU self-reliance.
- **Expand Global Partnerships:** Strengthen worldwide connections between innovation communities.
- **Promote Equality in Innovation:** Ensure equal opportunities in innovation, focusing on gender inclusivity.
- **Reduce Innovation Access Gap:** Minimize disparities in innovation support across different regions.

## Expected Activities

The destination focuses on creating links:

- **Among Innovation Stakeholders:** Encourages connections among private sector entities like SMEs and startups, investors, the public sector, civil society, and research institutions to speed up funding access and market entry, ensuring innovations meet societal needs.
- **Across Different Levels of Innovators:** Fosters connections between regions with varying innovation capacities to enhance innovation cohesion across the EU. Check the Regional Innovation Scoreboard for insights into regional innovation performances.
- **With Networks and Hubs:** Links innovators with networks such as National Contact Points, the EIT, EIC communities, the Enterprise Europe Network, and more, to facilitate partnering among innovators and strengthen the innovation support framework.

### ▼ Further Reading

- [Long-term vision for the EU's Rural areas \(COM\(2021\)345 final\)](#)
- [Start-up villages: a commitment to a long-term vision for rural areas](#)
- [Regional Innovation Scoreboard \(RIS\), European Innovation Scoreboard \(EIS\), Global Innovation Index \(GII\)](#)
- [Partnerships for Regional Innovation.](#)

# Startup Europe [Connect-01-02]

Deadline: **19 September 2024**

Budget per project: **100.000**

Project (to be funded): **10**

## Call Aim

- Connect **local digital and deep tech start-up ecosystems**.
- Support **cross-border acceleration activities** for start-ups that demonstrate traction (i.e. market-product fit or at least a seed round raised).
- Specific attention will be given to the inclusion of ecosystems in **'moderate' or 'emerging'** innovator countries / regions.

### Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP):

- Optional
- If selected > 60% of Total Budget.

## Expected Outcomes

- Increase **market footprint of European start-ups** in strategic digital technologies and deep tech innovation:
  - Artificial Intelligence,
  - Advanced Computing,
  - Cybersecurity,
  - Next Generation Internet,
  - Blockchain,
  - Metaverse,
  - Internet of Things,
  - Energy, Greentech, AgriTech, and Fintech
- **Better connection of start-ups** to relevant local and/or European ecosystems, communities, and potential new markets
- **Scaling up of capabilities in matching technology solutions** developed by highly innovative European Union (EU)-funded digital and deep tech start-ups with investment and growth opportunities.
- **Collaboration with other initiatives such as:**
  - European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) & Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs),
  - European Innovation Council (EIC)-supported start-ups and Seal of Excellence holders,
  - InvestEU,
  - Digital Europe Programme,
  - Women TechEU
  - Public and private buyers, or investors and corporate innovation ventures, and start-up villages.

## Target Groups

- Start-up ecosystem builders
- Business angel organisations
- Venture capital entities
- Accelerators, incubators, start-up associations, clusters.

## Prioritise

- Start-ups that have either already achieved market-product fit or have raised at least a round of financing (seed or later); and
- Start-ups established in 'moderate' or 'emerging' innovator countries and/or regions; or
- Women-led start-ups.<sup>1</sup>

## Expected Impact (Destination)

- **Build Connected Innovation Networks:** Strengthen EU-wide innovation by linking diverse regions and groups, focusing on societal challenges like sustainability and digital transformation.
- **Enhance Cross-border Collaboration:** Boost cooperation across regions to support sustainable and digital economic growth, promoting EU self-reliance.
- **Expand Global Partnerships:** Strengthen worldwide connections between innovation communities.
- **Promote Equality in Innovation:** Ensure equal opportunities in innovation, focusing on gender inclusivity.
- **Reduce Innovation Access Gap:** Minimize disparities in innovation support across different regions.

## Expected Activities

- Support and promote the European Partnership on Innovative Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).
- Increase the research and innovation capacity and productivity of innovative SMEs **█** embed in global value chains and access new markets.
- Foster collaboration and networking among SMEs in the **deep tech field**, provide financial support to selected companies.
- Organize events to build a network of Women TechEU grantees. The ultimate goal is to create a more competitive EU and a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient world.

**!!** Special attention: European digital and deep tech start-ups and scale-ups in **accessing innovation procurement opportunities (public or corporate procurers)**.

### ▼ Further Reading



 EIC Community

#### Welcome to the EIC Community | EIC Community

The EIC Community platform is the place where we welcome all EIC-funded organisations, and other...



 ESNA

#### Home - ESNA

EuropeStartupNationsAlliance Contributing to bring Europe to the lead of global startup ecosystem Press...

# Expanding Academia-Enterprise Collaborations [Connect-02-01]

Deadline: **19 September 2024**

Budget per project: **500.000**

Project (to be funded): **5**

## Call Aim

- Encourage educational and research institutions to become more involved in innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Integrating these institutions more deeply into the innovation ecosystems and economic value chains by aligning their strengths and visions with regional needs and specialties.

Educational and research institutions' **assets and vision** are articulated clearly and **in line with respective regional specialisations** (such as smart specialisation strategies), so they can easily be integrated into innovation ecosystems and economic value chains.

## Expected Outcomes

- **Boost Innovation Ecosystems:** through closer ties between educational/research institutions and the broader innovation ecosystem, including startups, investors, and incubators.
- **Enhance Knowledge and Skill Flow:** by the exchange of knowledge, skills, and talent between educational entities and innovation actors, especially in deep tech areas.
- **Upgrade Skills for Innovation:** improve digital, green, entrepreneurial, and networking skills among all ecosystem participants to boost innovation and market adoption of new technologies.
- **Connect Educational Institutions with Tech Infrastructures:** Facilitates educational institutions' access to high-quality testing and scaling facilities for innovations across the EU.
- **Empower Innovators:** Enhances the ability of students, graduates, and researchers to launch and manage successful startups, focusing on deep tech sectors.
- **Support Local Talent and Entrepreneurship:** Increases the availability of locally skilled talents to boost business acceleration, digitalization, and entrepreneurial activity, aiming for sustainable and inclusive growth.
- **Improve Collaborations and Engagement:** Encourages greater interaction among educational institutions, tech transfer offices, businesses, and other innovation actors to foster regional innovation.
- **Boost Youth Employability and Gender Balance:** Aims to increase job opportunities for young people and improve gender balance in academia-enterprise collaborations.

## Target Groups

- Research and innovation (vocational schools, higher education institutions)
- Public authorities in the field of education and employment
- Innovation agencies
- SMEs, deep tech companies, European Innovation Council (EIC) and (EIT) start-ups and industry,
- Research performing organisations,
- Knowledge and technology transfer offices and associations
- Students and researchers.

## Expected Impact (Destination)

Consortia must work closely with innovation agencies from respective territories and beyond, and seek synergies with relevant EU initiatives in the field of university-business cooperation (Erasmus+, EIT (KICs), EIT Initiative on Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education).


- **Build Connected Innovation Networks:** Strengthen EU-wide innovation by linking diverse regions and groups, focusing on societal challenges like sustainability and digital transformation.
- **Enhance Cross-border Collaboration:** Boost cooperation across regions to support sustainable and digital economic growth, promoting EU self-reliance.
- **Expand Global Partnerships:** Strengthen worldwide connections between innovation communities.
- **Promote Equality in Innovation:** Ensure equal opportunities in innovation, focusing on gender inclusivity.
- **Reduce Innovation Access Gap:** Minimize disparities in innovation support across different regions.

## Expected Activities


Co-designed programmes of activities of at least two (2) years,

By	Educational & research institutions, R&I actors	Private sector from innovation hubs
From	Emerging' and 'moderate' innovation ecosystems	Strong innovators' and 'innovation leaders'

to ensure better connectedness between higher education institutions and research organisation with other actors of innovation ecosystems:

- Engagement of **business experts into the implementation** of networking activities and building innovation ecosystem around the university/research institution;
- **Engagement of students, graduates, researchers and workforce** from various disciplines and departments into IE  networking and building networks around educational and research institutions as centres of gravity, and **engaging in companies' structures and business processes;**
- Engagement of **students and researchers in start-ups** from both their immediate local environment and beyond (regional, national, transnational) working with various actors from the innovation ecosystem to experience what starting and **running a venture entails, such as raising funds, pitching events, creating, editing, and adapting business models in the creation process from idea to market, etc.;**
- Creation of synergies between students, graduates, researchers, innovators, education institutes, research performing organisations, and business partners, locally, at EU level, and globally targeting the creation of networks and communities of practices in the field of **deep tech** to stimulate the market uptake of results and new technologies, as well as their co-creation.


### ▼ Further Reading



**EU Science Hub**

**EntreComp: The entrepreneurship competence fr...**

A key competence frameworkThe development of the entrepreneurial capacity of European citizens and...



**Pilot Call: HEI Initiative - Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education | EIT**

The EIT has launched the HEI Initiative: Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education, a new initiative to unlock the full innovation potential of higher education institutions (HEIs). Vis...

# Mutual learning and support scheme for national and regional innovation programmes [Connect-02-02]

Deadline: **19 September 2024**

Budget per project: **100.000**

Project (to be funded): **10**

## Call Aim

### Call for National & Regional Innovation Agencies / Funding authorities

Call encourages innovation agencies to collaborate and learn from each other to provide high-quality support to innovative start-ups and SMEs and to improve or establish funding programmes eligible for the EIC Accelerator's Plug-in scheme. **Focus on Moderate and Emerging Innovators.**

- **Connect Innovation Support Agencies:** Bring together public national and regional agencies to enhance dialogue and networking for designing and implementing innovation funding programmes.
- **Improve Programme Quality:** Help Member States and regions improve or create funding programmes that meet the criteria for the EIC Accelerator's Plug-in certification.
- **Share Best Practices:** Proposals should aim to exchange knowledge on the design, operation, and monitoring of national and regional funding programmes.
- **Enhance Accessibility:** Broaden access to information for start-ups and SMEs about national and regional programmes and opportunities under the Plug-in scheme.

## Expected Outcomes

- **Reduce fragmentation** of innovation ecosystems and national/regional start-up support schemes;
- **Increase cooperation, learning, and exchange of knowledge** between national and regional innovation support public authorities and agencies **innovation funding schemes aligned with Plug-in certification for step 2 EIC Accelerator;**
- **Better communicate Plug-in scheme** to the innovation ecosystem stakeholders.
- Create **homogeneous, equal, and aligned approach in the evaluation of projects** under national and regional support schemes;
- Enhanced **cooperation among national and regional public authorities and agencies** and SMEs and start-ups, particularly between innovation 'leaders'/'strong' innovators and 'moderate'/'emerging' innovator countries;

## Target Groups

- National or regional innovation agencies or similar organisations,
- National and regional authorities in charge of management of innovation programmes
- EIC Plug-in contact points

## Expected Impact (Destination)

- Consortia must work closely with innovation agencies from respective territories and beyond, and seek synergies with relevant EU initiatives in the field of university-business cooperation (Erasmus+, EIT (KICs), EIT Initiative on Innovation Capacity Building for Higher Education).

- **Build Connected Innovation Networks:** Strengthen EU-wide innovation by linking diverse regions and groups, focusing on societal challenges like sustainability and digital transformation.
- **Enhance Cross-border Collaboration:** Boost cooperation across regions to support sustainable and digital economic growth, promoting EU self-reliance.
- **Expand Global Partnerships:** Strengthen worldwide connections between innovation communities.
- **Promote Equality in Innovation:** Ensure equal opportunities in innovation, focusing on gender inclusivity.
- **Reduce Innovation Access Gap:** Minimize disparities in innovation support across different regions.

## Expected Activities

- **Enhance the quality of support** provided at national and regional levels to the most promising innovative start-ups and SMEs;
- **Improve or set up national and regional funding programmes** that could qualify for certification under the **Plug-in scheme** of the EIC Accelerator;
- **Share best practices** in terms of design, functioning, operation, and monitoring of such programmes;
- **Communicate** to applicants the opportunities to access the national and regional funding programmes and have their chance to be selected under Plug-in scheme to apply to step 2 of the EIC Accelerator.

### ▼ Further Reading



European Innovation Council

**Fast Track and Plug-In schemes for EIC Accelerat...**



Publications Office of the EU

**Handbook of service design by innovation agenci...**

Innovation support agencies, i.e. the regional and national agencies that design and/or implement innovatio...



**Thank you.**

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