

# VANGUARD INITIATIVE

New growth through smart specialisation



## The Vanguard Initiative

### New Growth through Smart Specialisation

The Vanguard Initiative is a unique alliance of the most advanced industrial regions in Europe. By connecting innovation ecosystems and sharing knowledge and facilities across its member regions, the Vanguard Initiative facilitates interregional collaboration, stimulates interregional innovation investments, speeds up innovative technologies market-uptake in Europe.

Over the past ten years, the Vanguard Initiative has pioneered breakthroughs in regional innovation policies and programmes:

1. The VI Pilots have inspired the creation of the Commission's S3 platforms;
2. The VI 3 layer model has inspired the conception of the I3 instrument;
3. The EU Innovation Agenda and the Regional Innovation Valleys

See the video 'Ten years of the Vanguard Initiative' [here](#)



In its recently published Policy Position Paper, the Vanguard Initiative calls for an integrated EU industrial & innovation policy based on interconnected regional ecosystems, the network is advocating for a new industrial & innovation policy toolbox addressing industrial competitiveness challenges and focusing on:

- ✓ Interconnecting regional ecosystems, fully recognising the regional dimension of industrial and innovation policies;
- ✓ New approaches and tools for connecting R&I support to industrial deployment;
- ✓ Using Smart specialisation principle as driver for shaping innovative EU value chains;
- ✓ Focusing on SMEs and start-ups.

Read the newly published VI Position Paper [here](#)



## The VI Pilot Projects

The core activity of the Vanguard Initiative is the implementation of its Pilot Projects, which have been developed through the active participation of **clusters, science parks, research institutes and universities** in the member regions. All Pilot Projects are close to the market and therefore have a **high commercial potential**, focusing on applications at post-prototyping level (> TRL5), with the potential for full market deployment in a time span of 3 to 5 years.



Learn more about the pilots [here](#)



## VI Interregional Funding Mechanism - Vinnovate

In May 2024, Vanguard Initiative launched a new and unique Interregional Funding Mechanism designed to enable the funding of innovation projects, with the aim to generate industry-led and strategic interregional projects.

Learn more about Vinnovate [here](#)

## Vanguard Initiative Regions



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