

# EU FUNDING PROGRAMMES

Förderungen für Südtiroler Unternehmen in den Bereichen Innovation, Forschung und Entwicklung: Möglichkeiten auf Landes-, Staats und EU Ebene

Agevolazioni per le imprese altoatesine negli ambiti innovazione, ricerca e sviluppo: opportunità a livello provinciale, nazionale ed europeo

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# **AGENDA**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. EU Funding Opportunities for companies**
- 3. Conclusion**
- 4. Our Support**

# INTRODUCTION

**How many European Projects are there in  
South Tyrol at the moment?**

# INDIRECT FUNDS - SOME KEY ELEMENTS

?

**(Period 2021-2025)**

**268 Projects**

**>80 Companies involved**

# EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

# EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EU funds support projects that improve infrastructure, support innovation, enhance education and healthcare, combat climate change, and foster digital transformation.

European Funding mostly supports **cooperation** projects.



# TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL

· TRL 1 – basic principles observed

· TRL 2 – technology concept formulated

· TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept

· TRL 4 – technology validated in lab

· TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

· TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

· TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

· TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

· TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)

# European Funding for Innovation VS TRL



FESR (>400k-1.5M€) – Interreg (200k-1M€)

Cascade Funding (50k-300k€)

Horizon Pillar I

Horizon Pillar II (research driven)

EIC Pathfinder and Transition

European Innovation Technology (150k-400k€)

EIC Accelerator (Grant <2.5M€) Equity(0.5-10M€)

# INDIRECT FUNDING

ERDF: EUROPEAN FUND FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INTERREG

ESF+, NEXT GENERATION EU, COHESION FUND



## What does it fund?

The ERDF intends to **reduce existing regional imbalances** in the European Union by means of **infrastructure and productive investments** capable of driving regions towards structural adjustment and economic development.

## Who can apply?

- SMEs (alone or in partnership)
- Large Enterprise (alone or in partnership)
- Research institutes (alone or in partnership)

Beneficiaries must be located in the same Region

TRL 4-8

3 years maximum project duration

€ 400.000 minimum project size

Funding: 25%-80% (for companies)

## 3 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### 1. Smart

- Research and innovation
- Digitalization

### 2. Green

- Energy efficiency
- Risk prevention

### 3. Mobility

- Sustainable mobility

## What does it fund?

Interreg IT-AT promotes Italian-Austrian **cooperation projects reducing cross-border obstacles** in the fields of innovation and entrepreneurship, climate change and biodiversity, sustainable tourism and culture, community led local development.

## Who can apply?

- SMEs, micro-enterprises, research centers, start-ups and spin-offs
- **Cooperation with Austrian partner** required

Beneficiaries must be located in the regions of the Programme

No fixed TRL

2/3 years project duration

€ 200.000 – €1M project size depending on number of regions included

Funding: 25%-80% (for companies)

## Other relevant Interreg programs



Alpine Space



## OTHER INDIRECT FUNDS

### ESF+

The European Social Fund+ aims to support **employment, social inclusion, education,** and skills development across the EU.

#### Who can apply?

Local governments, universities and educational institutions, private sector entities

**Agriculture, fishing, others:  
FEASR, FEAMP, FJT**

### Recovery Fund (PNRR)

The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), part of the European Union's Next Generation EU (NGEU), aims to support Italy's recovery by investing in key areas such as **digitization, innovation, ecological transition, and social inclusion**

#### Who can apply?

Public administration, private sector entities, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, research institutions and innovation hubs

### COHESION FUND

The Cohesion fund is aimed at reducing economic and social disparities and promoting sustainable development across Europe by funding primarily **environmental and infrastructure projects.**

#### Who can apply?

Public authorities and private sector entities involved in environmental and infrastructure projects

## INDIRECT FUNDS - SOME KEY ELEMENTS

**Managing Authority** in your Region (ERDF, EFS+, ... ) or in one of the Regions of the cooperation Area (Interreg)

**Higher Success rate**

**Incremental innovation** is possible

**Local infrastructures** can be funded

# DIRECT FUNDING



# HORIZON EUROPE

Horizon Europe is the European Union's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.



## THREE PILLAR STRUCTURE



## MISSIONS

Research and innovation missions, aimed at increasing the effectiveness of funding

## EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS

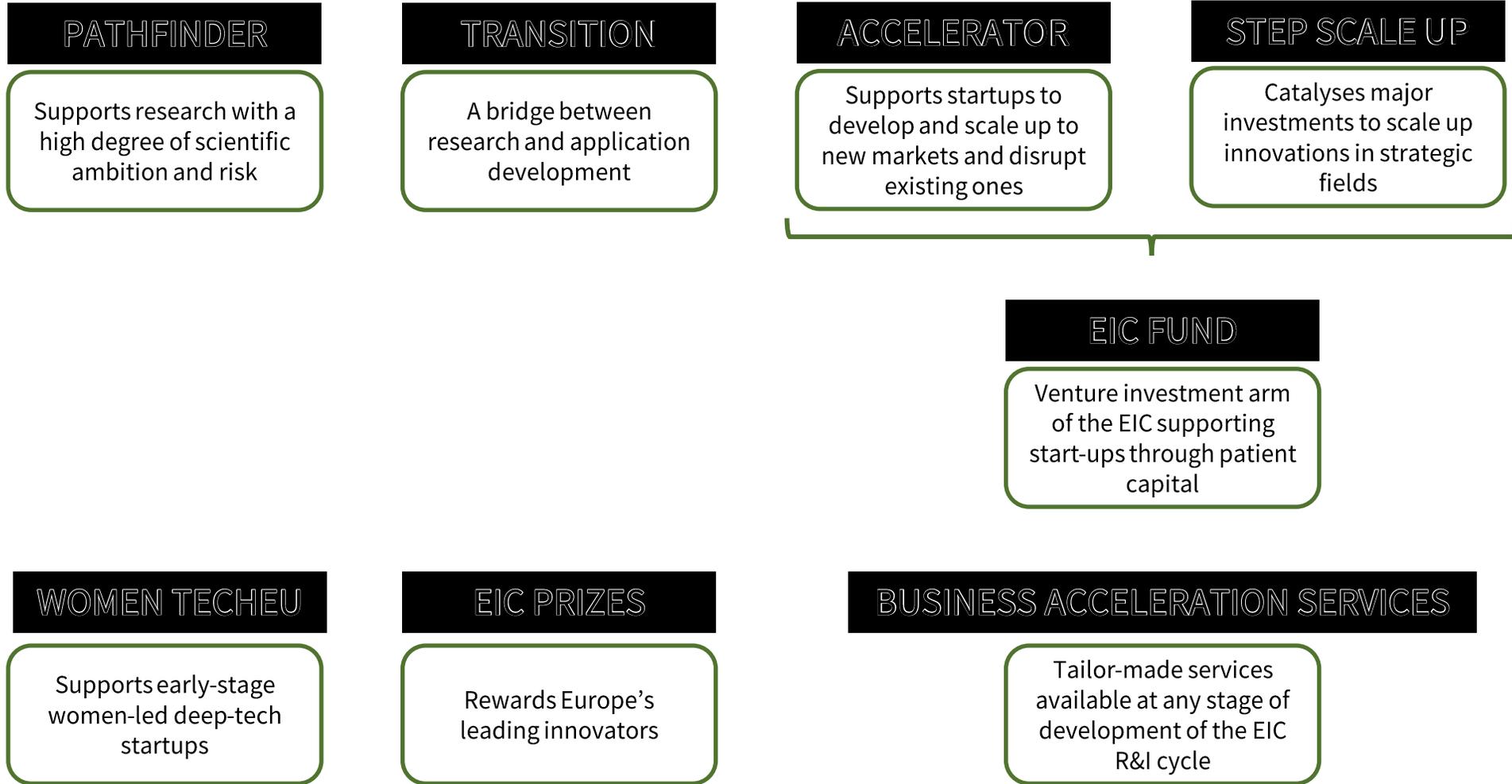
Partnerships supported by the Commission, Member States and the private sector

## 5 mission areas

- Cancer
- Climate change adaptation
- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
- Climate-neutral and intelligent cities
- Healthy food and soil

# EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL

The EIC is Europe's flagship innovation programme to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough Technologies and game changing innovations.

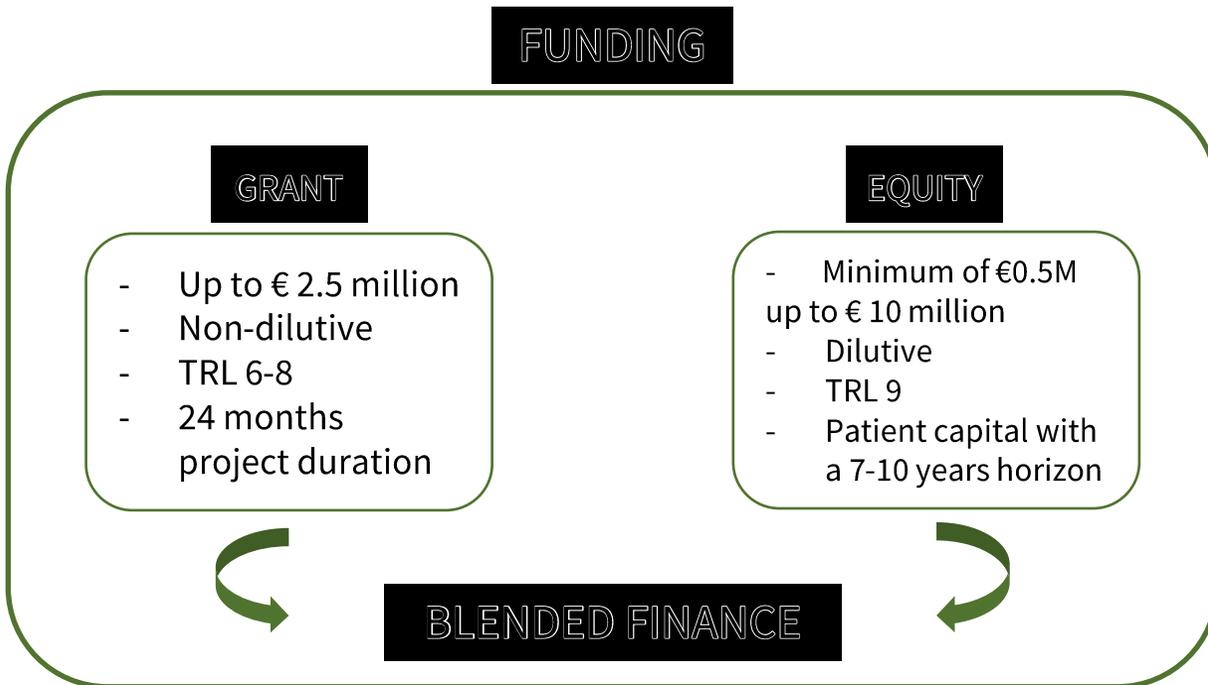


## What does it fund?

The EIC Accelerator is a funding programme offering **support to startups and SMEs with disruptive innovative products, services or business models capable of creating new markets or transforming existing ones** in the EU and worldwide.

## Who can apply?

Single startups, SMEs, small mid-caps



### EIC ACCELERATOR **OPEN**

No pre-defined thematic priority, open to any field of technology and application

### EIC ACCELERATOR **CHALLENGES**

Pre-defined areas of emerging and strategic technologies

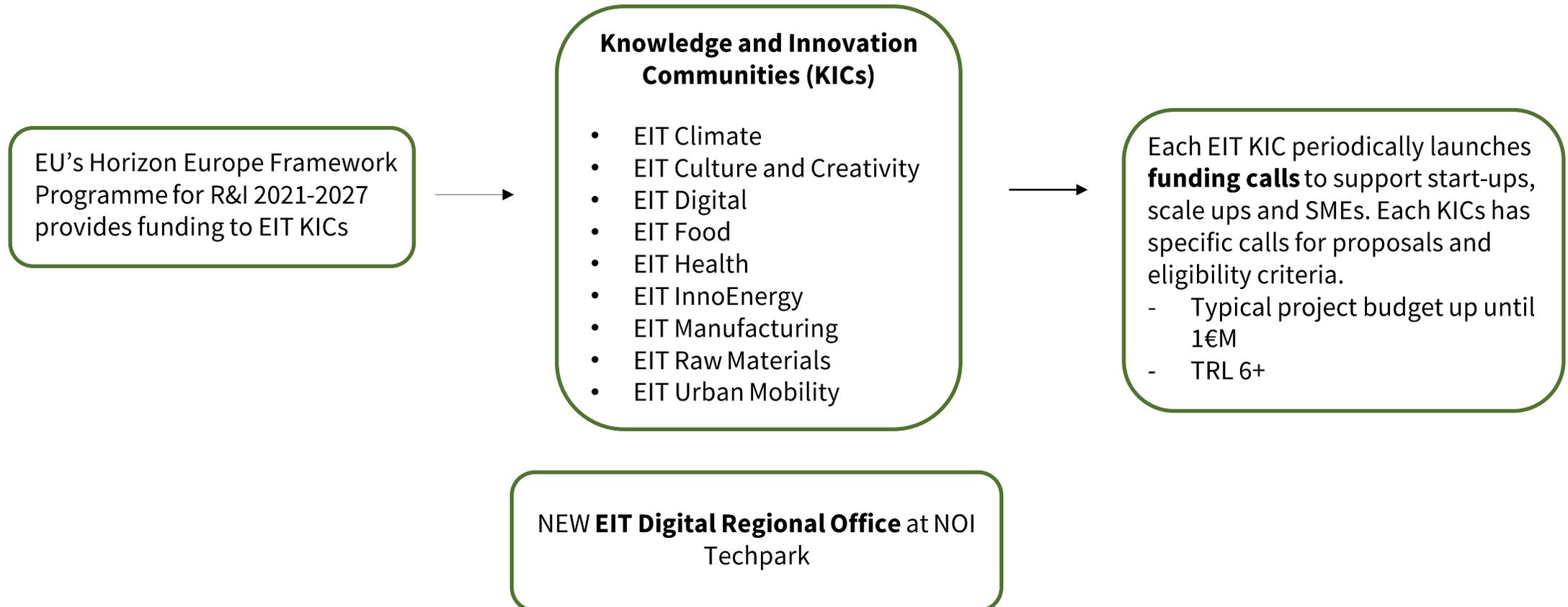
3 steps selection process:

- Short proposal
- Full proposal
- Face to face interview with EIC Jury

### SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

EU quality label awarded to high quality projects receiving high scores under the evaluation process, which will not be funded due to budget constraints

The EIT is a unique EU body which aims at driving innovation by bringing together organizations across business, education, and research. The goal of these partnerships is to find and commercialize solutions to pressing global challenges.





## What does it fund?

The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the **environment and climate action**. It supports projects that :

- Develop and **demonstrate eco-innovative techniques** and approaches
- Promote **best practices** and behavioural changes
- Help to **implement and enforce plans and strategies**, in compliance with EU legislation
- Catalyse the **large-scale deployment of successful solutions**

## Who can apply?

Any legal person established in the EU or in associated countries, alone or in cooperation

TRL 4+

60% maximum funding rate

Typical LIFE grant € 0.5 – € 5M

10 years maximum project duration

### Covered thematic areas

- Nature and biodiversity
- Circular economy and quality of life
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Clean energy transition

## What does it fund?

Eurostars is the largest international funding programme for **SMEs wishing to collaborate on R&D projects** that create **innovative products, processes, or services for commercialisation**. The topics are bottom-up.

## Who can apply?

- main partner of the consortium must be an innovative SME
- Project partners: SMEs, larger undertakings, universities and research centers from programme's participating countries

TRL 3-6

36 months maximum project duration

The maximum funding amount is a grant of € 400.000 per project, independent of the number of Italian participants.

# CASCADE FUNDING

## What does it fund?

Cascade funding also known as Financial Support for Third Parties (FTPS), is a European Commission mechanism to distribute public funding to achieve **specific and thematic** policy objectives. The European Commission awards grants to project consortia, which distribute funding through open calls.

## Who can apply?

Beneficiaries of cascading grants depend on the rules foreseen for the FSTP scheme in the specific call, usually recipients must be start-ups, SMEs and research institutions.

TRL 5+

50-100 % funding rate

Project budget: 50K-300K

6-18 months max duration

### Project types

Micro-grants for:

- Technology development (TRL 5-9)
- Acceleration (equity free)
- Integration into ongoing projects

Some projects provide free services on top of micro-grants

Support offered usually ranges between €50.000-€150.000

### Funding opportunities in specific sectors

- **Agritech:** DIVA, SmartAgriHubs, ATLAS, agROBOfood
- **ICT:** I4MS, NGI, AI4EU, SmartAnythingEverywhere
- **Health:** Human Brain Project
- **Digital:** DIGI-B-CUBE, NGS
- **Manufacturing:** AMable, Market 4.0

## What does it fund?

The InvestEU programme provides long-term funding by leveraging private and public funds in support of Europe's sustainable recovery. It helps to mobilize private investments for the EU's top policy priorities, such as the green, and digital transition, innovation and social investments and skills.

**The guarantee available** under the InvestEU Fund is implemented in partnership with selected financial partners, or '**implementing partners**', which provide direct and intermediated financing solutions for both private and public project promoters.

## Who can apply?

- Small mid-caps, SMEs, Socio or micro-enterprises established in the EU or in a third eligible country
- Private entities, public sector entities, public-private partnerships with a public purpose established in the EU or in a third eligible country

### InvestEU Fund

The InvestEU Fund **supports private and public investments** in four policy areas:

- sustainable infrastructure
- research, innovation and digitisation
- small and medium-sized businesses
- social investment and skills.

### InvestEU Advisory Hub

The InvestEU Advisory Hub acts as the central entry point for promoters and intermediaries seeking financial advisory and technical assistance for the identification and development of investment projects across the Union.

## What does it fund?

The European Defence Fund is the Commission's instrument to foster competitiveness, efficiency and capacity for innovation in the defence technological and industrial base through collaborative research and development actions.

## Who can apply?

Recipients involved in an action shall be legal entities established in the Union or in an associated country, not subject to control by a non-associated third country or by a non-associated third-country entity.

### TYPES OF CALLS

- Call for proposals addressing 16 thematic categories actions (research and development)
- **Non-thematic actions focused on SMEs** targeting research and development actions
- Other actions (EUDIS, business coaching etc.)

### Specific features

- Consortium required for any type of call (minimum 3 entities from 3 MS)
- Baseline funding rates:
  - Development actions 20%-90%
  - Research actions 100%
- Increase of funding rates (**Bonuses**) for development actions
  - PESCO bonus
  - SME bonus
  - Mid-cap bonus

## OTHER EU FUNDING PROGRAMMES

Interregional innovation projects

**13** Interregional  
Innovation  
Investment  
Instrument

**Single  
Market  
Programme**



Digital infrastructures, (digital) services and capacity building (training).



Highly innovative technologies and flagship projects within Europe that can bring about significant emission reductions.

**INNOVATION FUND**

Driving clean innovative technologies towards the market

## DIRECT FUNDS - SOME KEY ELEMENTS

**Managing Authority** is the European Commission (or its Agencies)

**Cooperation projects** rather the mono-beneficiary application → participation in Consortia

**Lower Success rate** due to competition

Incremental innovation is rarely possible → **radical or breakthrough innovation**

**Network is the key** to be successful

# Conclusion

# SUMMING UP

1. **A Project:** innovative companies with a concrete project idea. **The Golden Rule**
  - “I have an innovative project and European ambition. Can I benefit from EU Funding”? **YES!!**
  - “*What are the existing EU funds? Where can I get European money? I’ll do anything...*” **NO!!!**
2. EU potential and **ambition**
3. **TRL and BRL:** Define your **Technology Readiness Level** (and **Business Readiness Level**)
4. **The Network:** No Network, no success
5. Ask for **Help** for points 1,2,3,4

# HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

# WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU

## EU Funding service

Strategic Advisory to access EU Funding for R&D and Innovation

## EU Partnering service

International Partner search, international B2B events

## Access to the main European Networks for innovation



# THANK YOU.

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