



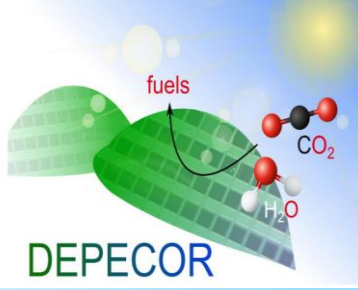
EU Bioeconomy

*Interregional conference of the Vanguard Initiative Network
26 Sept 2024*

Wim HAENTJENS – Jorge MOLINA
Bioeconomy & Food Systems Unit
European Commission, DG Research & Innovation



Bioeconomy: Leveraging nature's power for a sustainable future!



The EU's understanding of the Bioeconomy

All sectors and associated services and investments that produce, use, process, distribute or consume biological resources (animals, plants, micro-organisms, including organic waste), including ecosystem services.

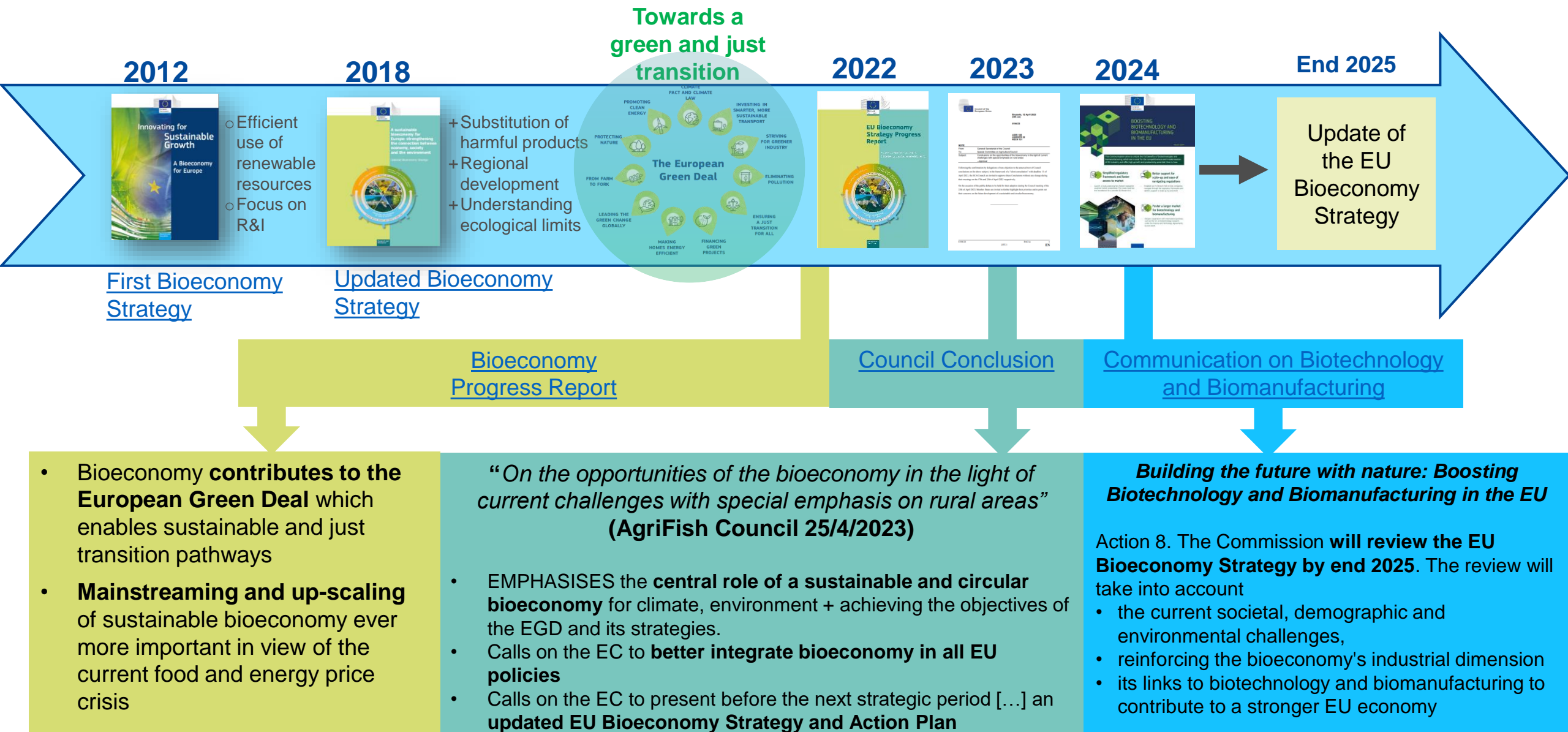
The EU Bioeconomy Strategy takes a **holistic approach** focusing on all three dimensions of sustainability.

Cross-sectoral policy framework.
It addresses **five different objectives**.

Strategic view on **trade-offs** (e.g. scarce biomass),
co-benefits (e.g. for biodiversity)

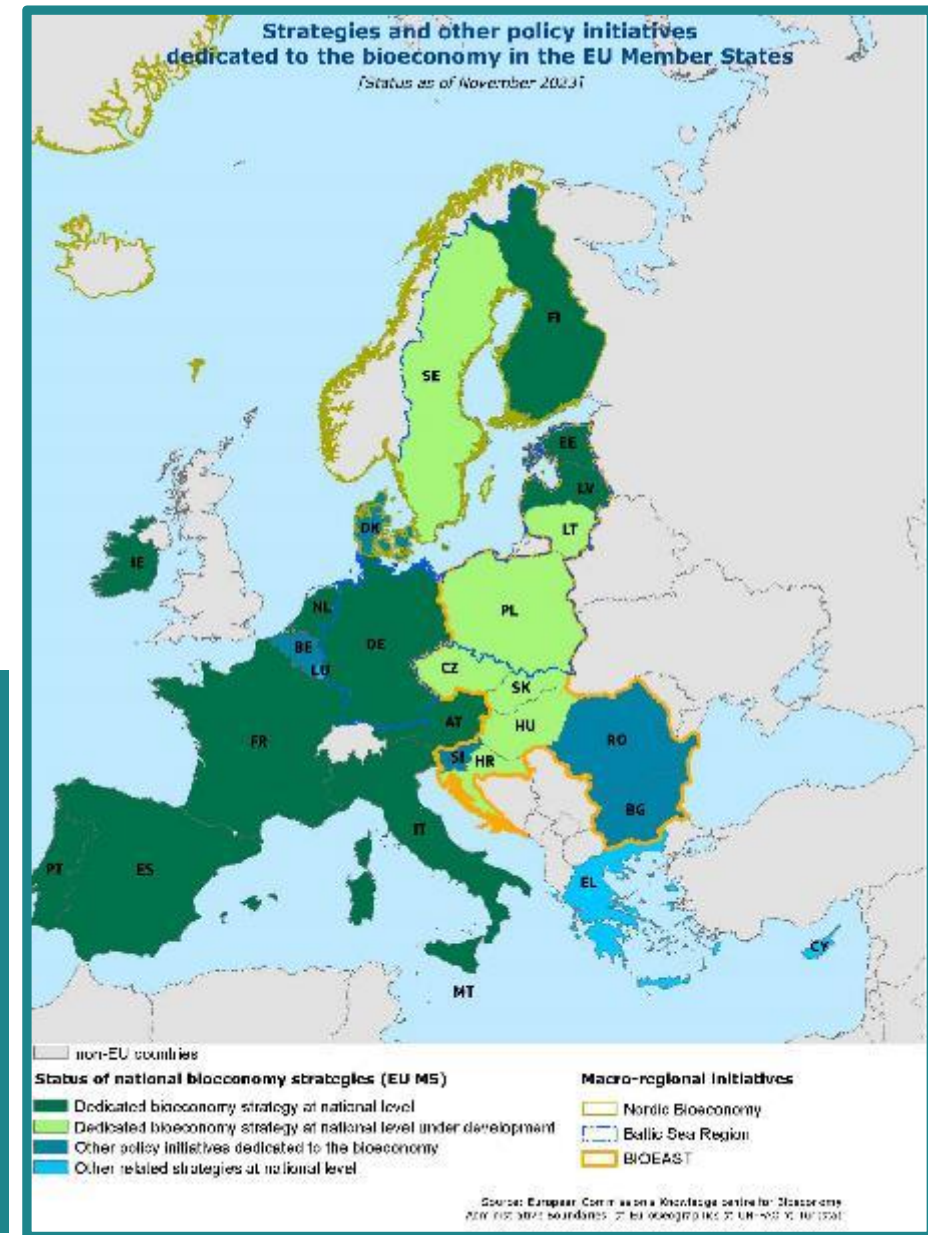


EU Bioeconomy Strategy timeline



Status of national bioeconomy policies - EU, end 2023

- 11 MS with national dedicated bioeconomy strategies
- 28 EU regions have dedicated strategy



The updated EU Bioeconomy Strategy (2018) – Action Plan

- **Three priorities:**
 - Strengthening and scale-up the **biobased sectors**
 - **Deploy local bioeconomies** across Europe
 - Understand the **ecological boundaries** / protect the biosphere
- A set of **14 well-defined actions**





1

STRENGTHEN AND SCALE-UP THE BIO-BASED SECTORS, UNLOCK INVESTMENTS AND MARKETS

-  Mobilise stakeholders in development and deployment of sustainable bio-based solutions
-  Launch the EUR 100 million Circular Bioeconomy Thematic Investment Platform
-  Analyse enablers and bottlenecks for the deployment of bio-based innovations
-  Promote and develop standards, labels and market uptake of bio-based products
-  Facilitate the development of new sustainable biorefineries
-  Develop new biodegradable products, including bio-based plastic substitutes

2

DEPLOY LOCAL BIOECONOMIES RAPIDLY ACROSS EUROPE

-  Launch a Strategic Deployment Agenda for sustainable food and farming systems, forestry and bio-based products
-  Launch pilot actions for the development of bioeconomies in rural, coastal and urban areas
-  Support regions and Member States to develop Bioeconomy Strategies
-  Promote education, training and skills across the bioeconomy

3

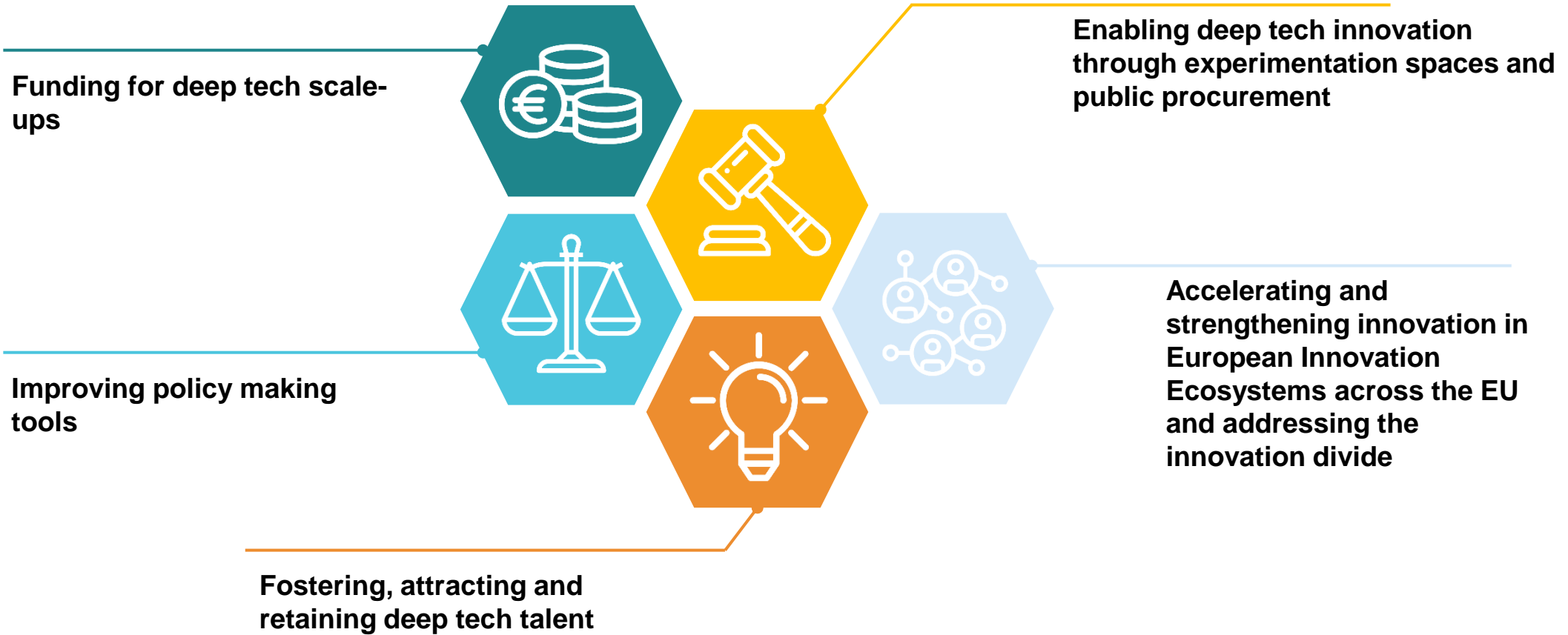
UNDERSTAND THE ECOLOGICAL BOUNDARIES OF THE BIOECONOMY

-  Enhance knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystems
-  Monitor progress towards a sustainable bioeconomy
-  Promote good practices to operate the bioeconomy within safe ecological limits
-  Enhance the benefits of biodiversity in primary production

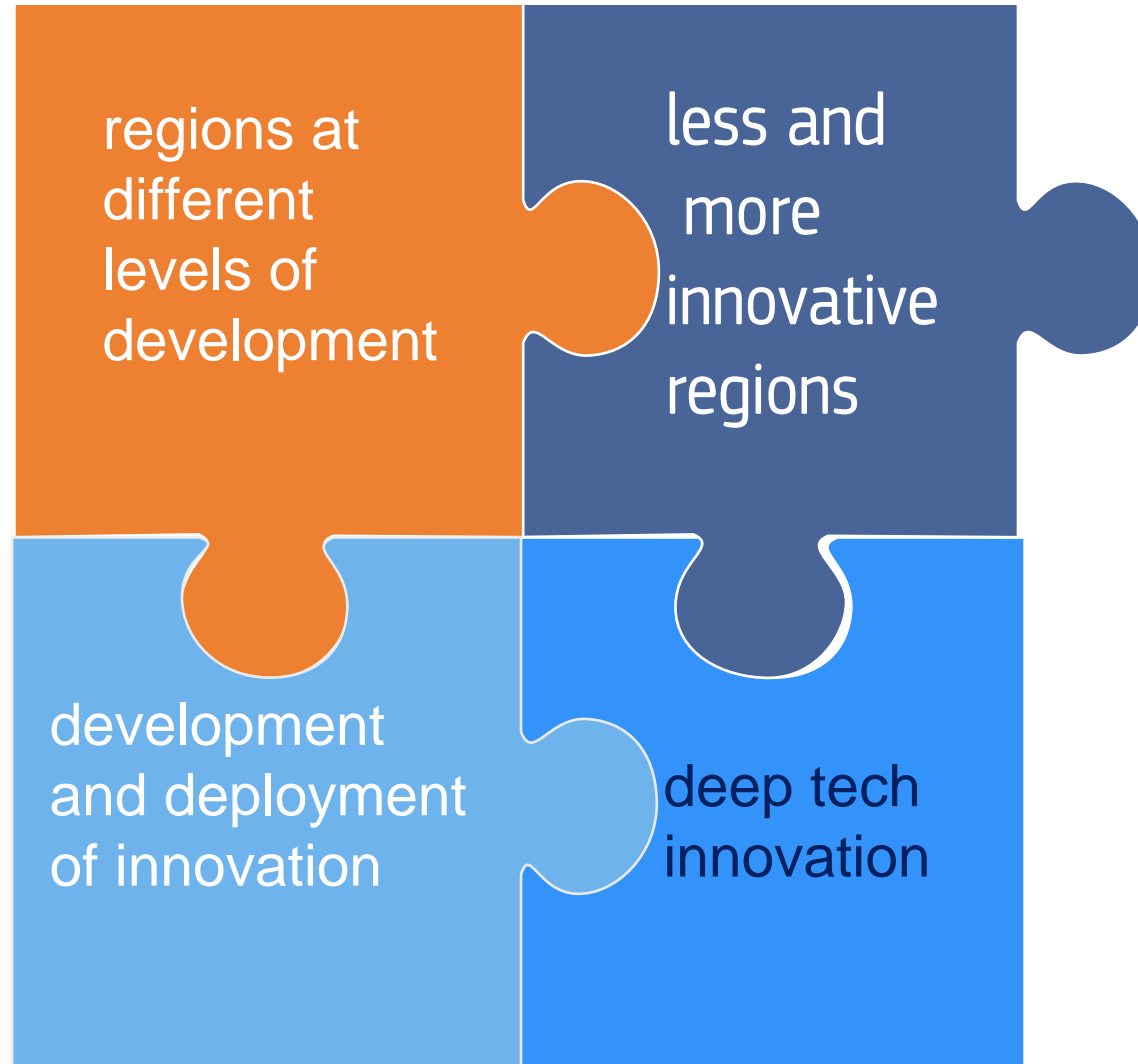


Regional Innovation Valleys for Bioeconomy and Food Systems

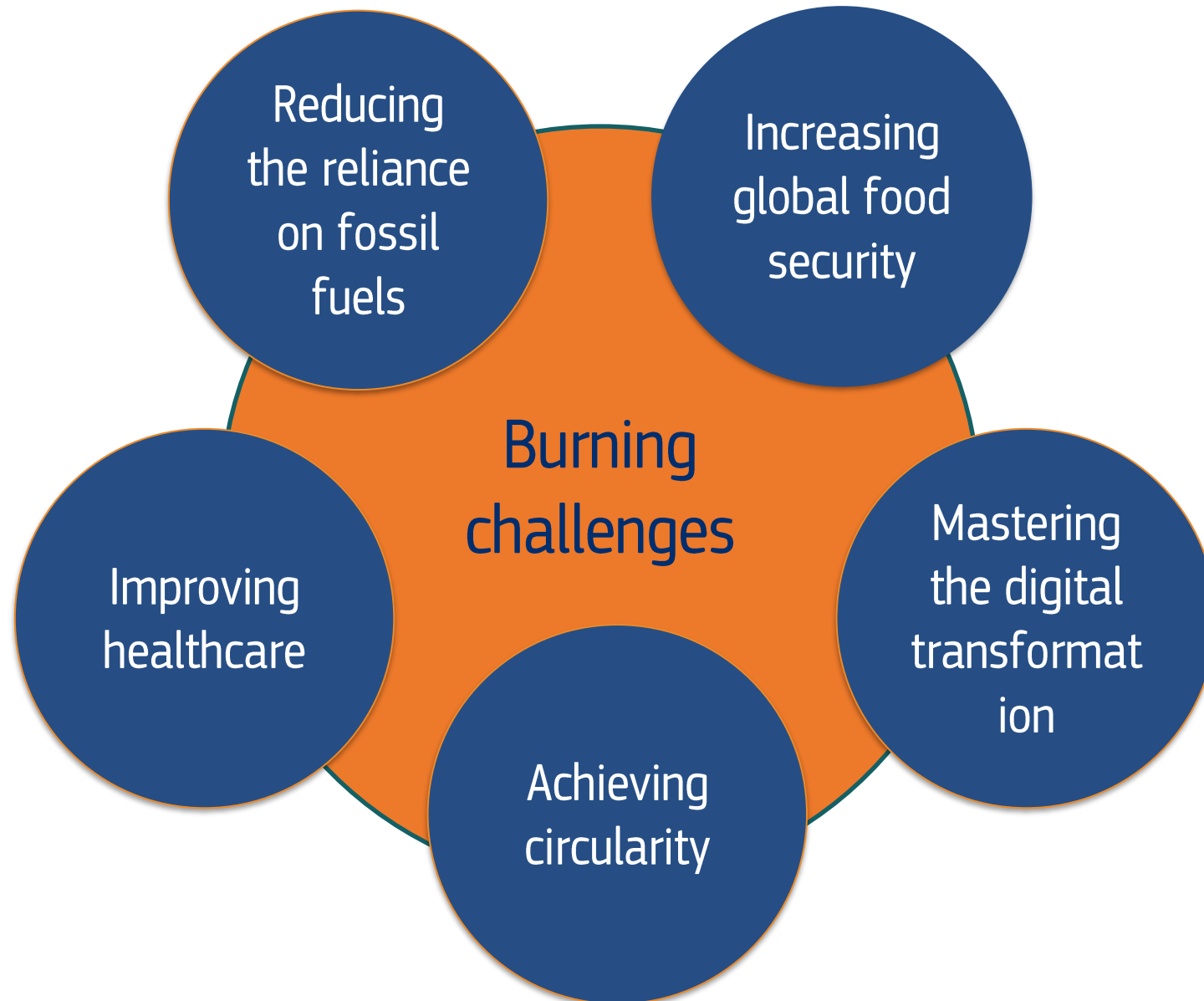
New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA): five flagships & the Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs)



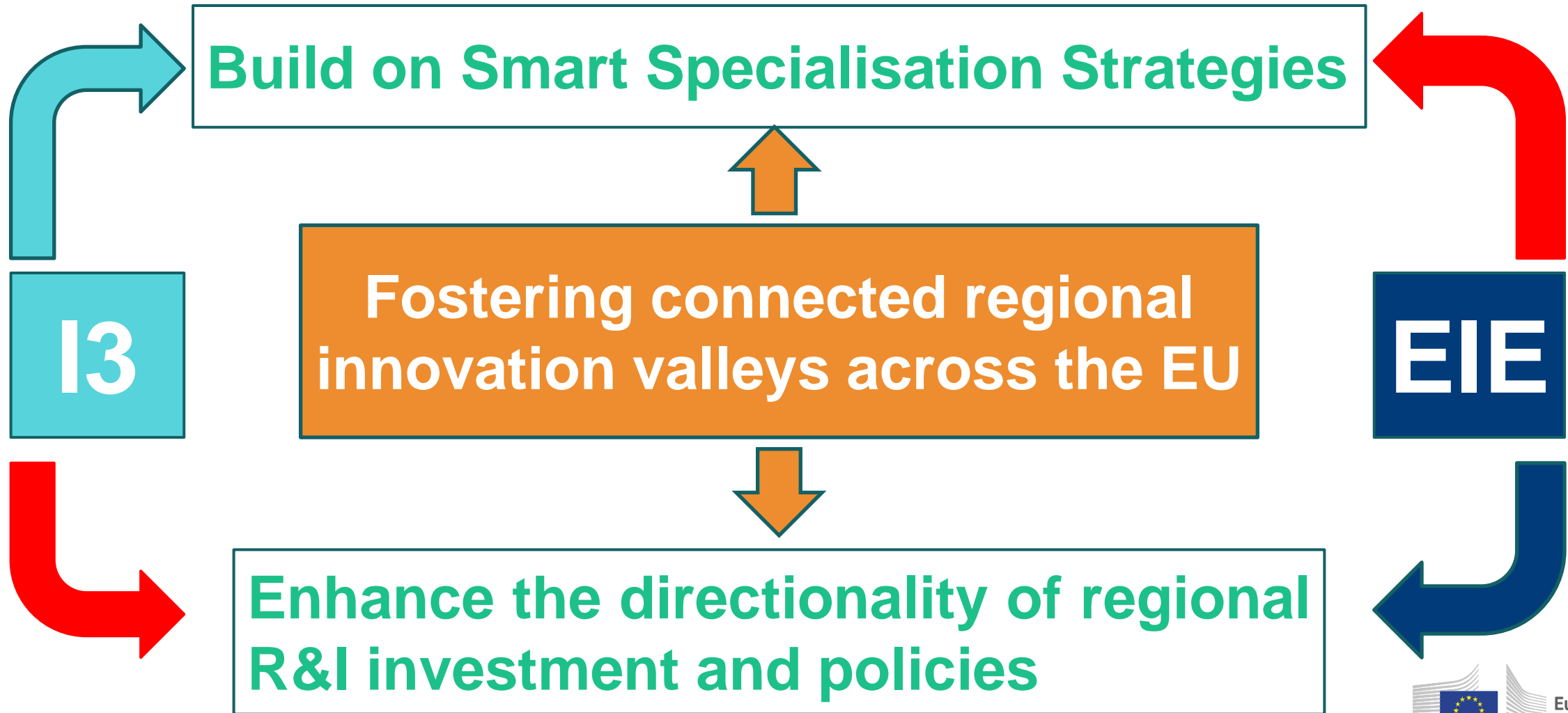
Regional Innovation Valleys framework



RIV's challenges

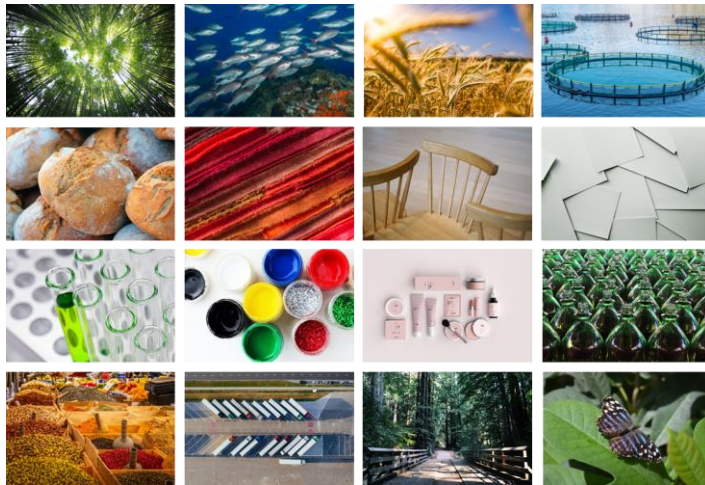


New European Innovation Agenda – Flagship 3



Concept Note on Regional Innovation Valleys for Bioeconomy and Food Systems

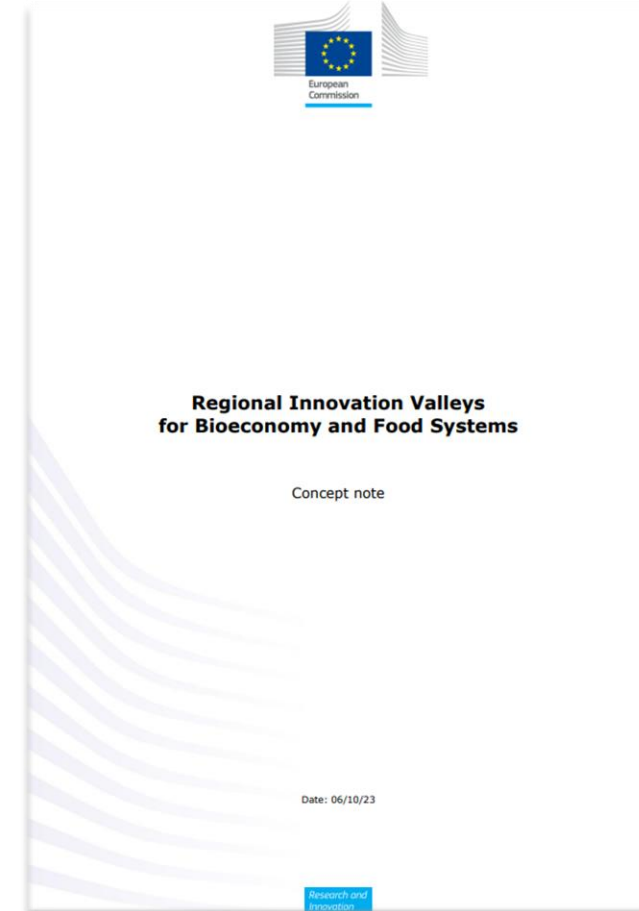
- Supporting NEIA Communication & RIV concept
- Non bidding thematic use case based on the Bioeconomy principles



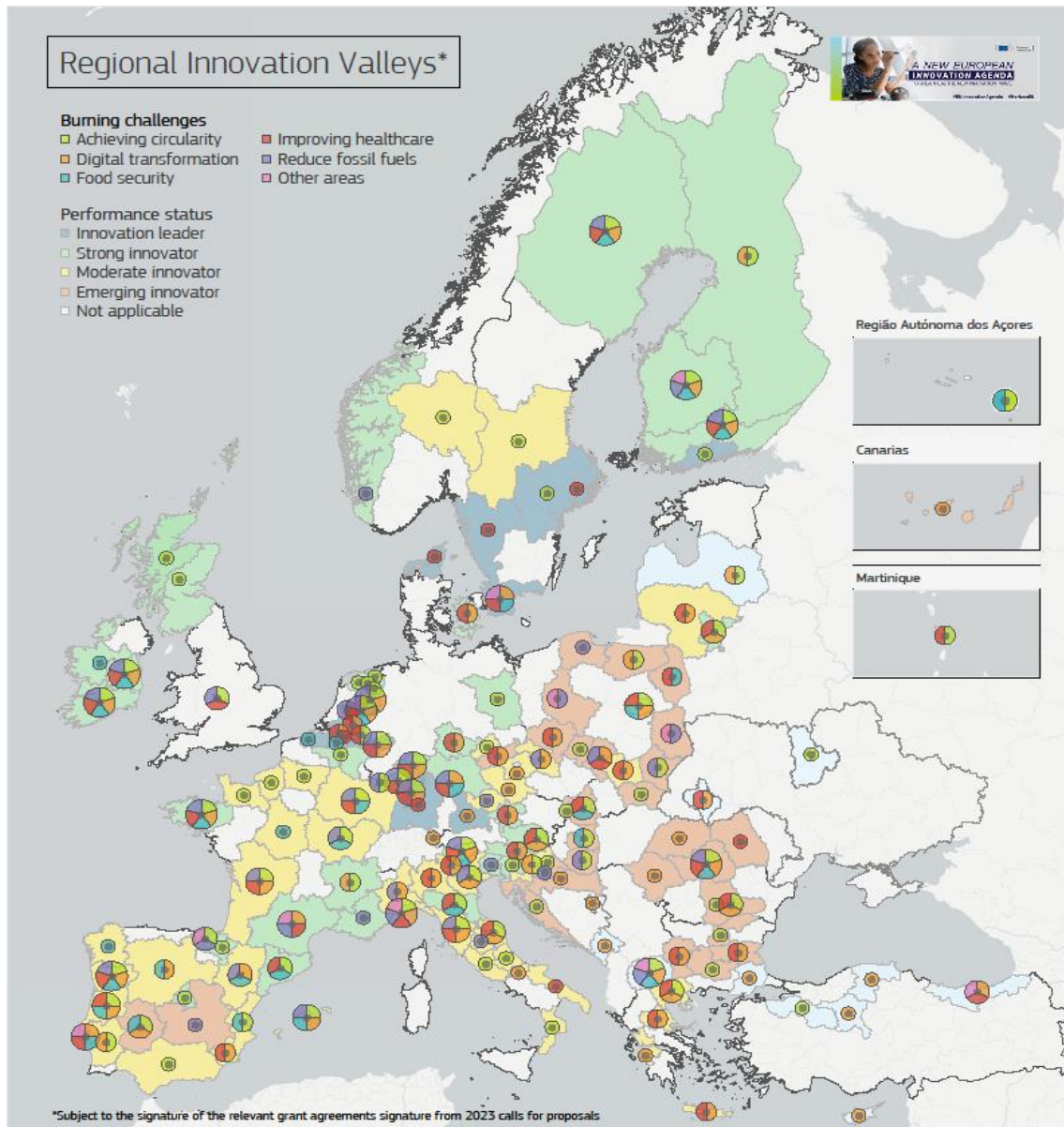
Concept Note here:

[81ac9157-a017-4e6d-afd8-584132f2d2b6_en \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.eu/81ac9157-a017-4e6d-afd8-584132f2d2b6_en)

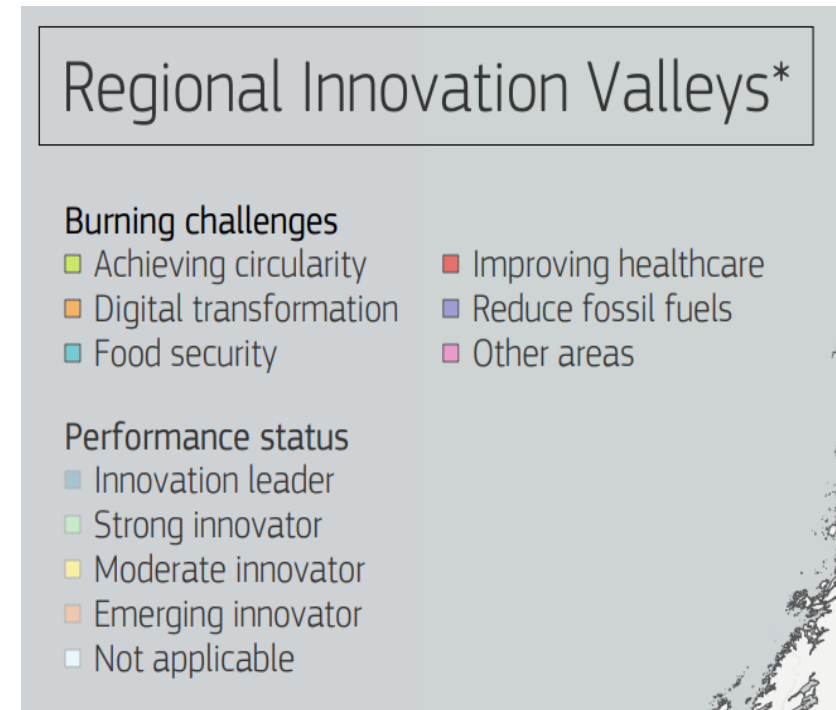
[“Regional Innovation Valleys for Bioeconomy and Food Systems” launch event - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.eu/Regional-Innovation-Valleys-for-Bioeconomy-and-Food-Systems-launch-event)



The Regional Innovation Valleys Initiative



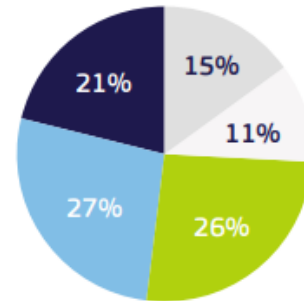
151



First Statistics

REGIONS PER BURNING CHALLENGE

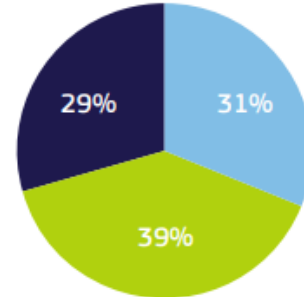
- Reducing the reliance on fossil fuels
- Increasing global food security
- Mastering the digital transformation (including cybersecurity)
- Achieving circularity
- Improving healthcare



REGIONS PER DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY

According to cohesion policy categories

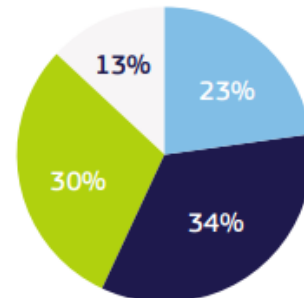
- Less developed regions
- More developed regions
- Transition regions



REGIONS PER INNOVATION CATEGORY

According to Regional Innovation Scoreboard (RIS)

- Emerging innovator
- Moderate innovator
- Strong innovator
- Innovation Leader



Results of EIE call

5 projects,
with 80 participants from 15
MS and 4 ACs asked for 54
mln cofund (50% funding rate)

Regional Innovation Valleys: next steps

- Launch of EIE and I3 projects
- Activities linked to the RIVs newly established network: events, communication actions and community support (linked to S3 CoP).
- New WP 2025 call(s)

Thank you!

[New European Innovation Agenda roadmap \(europa.eu\)](#)
[Interregional Innovation Investments \(I3\) Instrument](#)
[“Regional Innovation Valleys for Bioeconomy and Food Systems”](#)
[launch event - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
[European Innovation Ecosystems \(europa.eu\)](#)
[Inforegio - S3 Community of Practice](#)