



EUROPEAN REGIONS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION NETWORK



What role for local and regional innovation ecosystems in the next MFF

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MEMBERS

123

Members

26

Countries



Ecosystem approach



Brussels-based collaboration

with



+20 years of experience



ERRIN'S VALUE & ROLE

- ❖ We create a bridge between EU policy and local innovation ecosystems
- ❖ We act as a trusted platform for dialogue and collaboration between cities, regions, as well as universities and industry on the ground
- ❖ We highlight the regional dimension in EU R&I policy ensuring that initiatives are designed with and for territories, rather than imposed top-down



TOWARDS THE EU LONG-TERM BUDGET POST-2027

ERRIN – The voice for place-based R&I 2-pager for EU policy makers



20 June 2024

ERRIN - The voice of regions supporting EU decision-makers in place-based R&I policy

ERRIN – European Regions Research and Innovation Network – is a Brussels-based network that supports regional and local stakeholders in developing their innovation ecosystems and enhancing research and innovation (R&I) capacities through collaboration and partnerships.

As the new political cycle begins, European competitiveness, strategic autonomy and addressing the feeling of disconnect between citizens and the EU are among the major issues on the table. Fostering collaboration in R&I is key to helping Europe prosper in the wider geopolitical context. At the same time, maintaining the link with the needs and realities of territories is crucial to ensure optimal impact of policies and keeping people at the centre of the European project.

HOW CAN ERRIN SUPPORT EUROPEAN DECISION MAKERS

ERRIN brings together **120 regions and their research and innovation ecosystems from across 22 European countries**. The network mobilises key R&I stakeholders – public authorities, academia, the private sector and civil society. While facing different challenges, our members invest in research and innovation, local and regional development and contribute to making Europe more competitive. Together, we work bottom-up on European R&I policy and funding and foster experience sharing, mutual learning and collaboration.

ERRIN combines the diverse experiences and expertise at regional and local level where transformations take place. At the same time, we are not only focused on transforming our members' regions but also on connecting their innovation ecosystems to become drivers of change at the European level.


June 2024

Connected regional R&I ecosystems – key for Europe's competitiveness



January 2025

ERRIN's 10 key messages to the next MFF



Strengthening research, innovation and competitiveness – insights from 120 regional ecosystems

At this pivotal time for Europe, with the Commission's proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) getting closer, European Regions Research and Innovation Network (**ERRIN**) is pleased to provide inputs on how the EU can create the right conditions for R&I to thrive for a competitive Europe post-2027.

Even with the strong recognition of the value of innovation ecosystems as essential for competitiveness in key documents like such as the Draghi report, the importance of the place-based dimension of innovation and competitiveness is not covered, leaving a gap in the current policy discussions. However, a thriving European innovation ecosystem requires strong and well-connected place-based innovation ecosystems, essential for enhancing Europe's competitiveness, resilience and strategic autonomy. Without full participation of Europe's diverse regional ecosystems, enhanced competitiveness, strategic autonomy in key technological domains as well as the implementation of EU Green Deal will remain out of reach. A standalone FP10 is necessary to ensure a strong research and innovation dimension in the next MFF, putting innovation at the heart of the European economy and ensuring strong collaboration dimension within EU and between third countries.

The next EU long-term budget must not rely solely on top-down measures focused on a limited number of industrial sectors. Europe also needs to base its measures and investments on technology pull and real demand on the ground. Recognising the diversity of realities and conditions of cities and regions across Europe, and maintaining a close connection with territories, is crucial for ensuring that EU policies and programmes have high impact and keep citizens at the core of the European project.

The following 10 recommendations are based on insights gathered from the 120 regional ecosystems that ERRIN brings together across Europe, based on our comprehensive paper series [Towards the 10th Framework Programme](#).

April 2025

TOWARDS THE NEXT FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

ERRIN FP10 paper series

- ✓ EU Missions
- ✓ Widening
- ✓ European Partnerships
- ✓ Connected regional innovation ecosystems



WHERE ARE WE NOW?



Assessing the proposals for the next long-term budget post 2027



“Focus” on

- National and Regional Partnership Plans
- European Competitiveness Fund
- Horizon Europe

And how they are linked together...

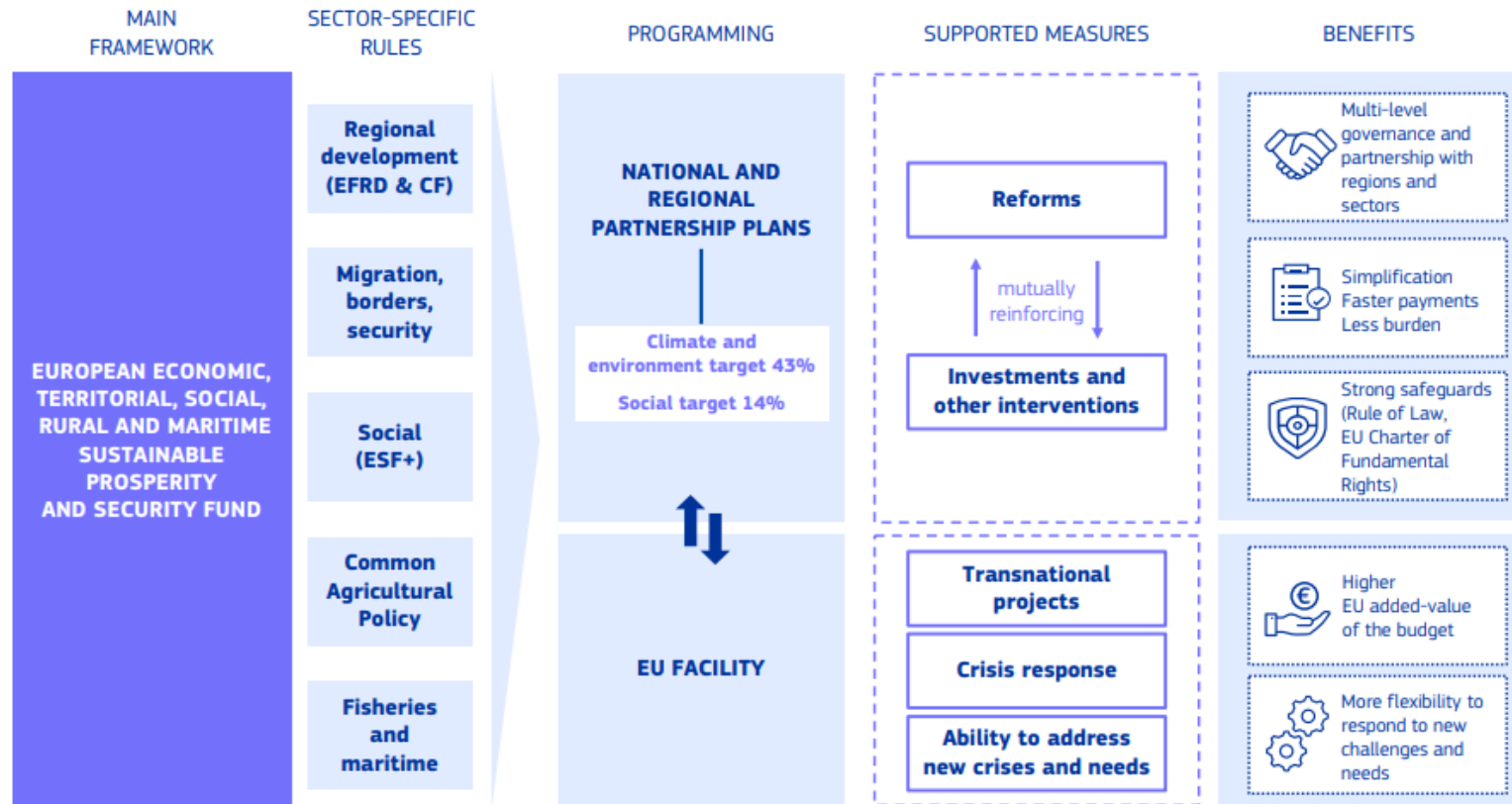


Dedicated events and discussions on the three proposals



National and Regional Partnership Plans

ONE COHERENT STRATEGY



EXAMPLE – SMART SPECIALISATION



18 September 2025

ERRIN key messages on the future of S3

Introduction

As the EU enters a critical phase of policy discussions for the post-2027 programming period, ERRIN members have reflected on the experiences of Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) so far and what is needed to ensure their continued relevance and impact in a new global landscape with priorities increasingly centred around European competitiveness. This report is based on the insights gathered during an interactive session between ERRIN members, where discussions focused on **three key themes crucial for S3 post-2027: the strategic role of Smart Specialisation, governance and stakeholder engagement and interregional collaboration.**

For ERRIN members, Smart Specialisation Strategies have proven to be a valuable and effective tool for strengthening innovation-driven regional development and fostering collaboration within and between R&I ecosystems. The place-based approach of S3 has been key for supporting regions in identifying their unique strengths and opportunities to maximise their R&I potential. The stakeholder engagement in S3 has been effective in many regions, bringing together key R&I actors – businesses, universities, public authorities and civil society – to shape priorities collaboratively, which has strengthened their regional R&I ecosystems. Another key strength of S3 is its potential to bridge multiple policy areas – regional policy, research and innovation policy and industrial policy – and foster synergies between them, which has not yet been fully unleashed in practice. In parallel, cohesion policy should adopt a more innovative approach more broadly, mainstreaming innovation throughout its priorities, beyond key objective one, with Smart Specialisation as an enabler.



“Smart specialisation helps regions select priorities. But little is done to assess the value of those priorities or align them with the EU’s wider goals.”

Annemie Turtelboom
Member of the European
Court of Auditors



Horizon Europe

With a proposed **€175 billion** budget, the new programme will be based on four pillars.

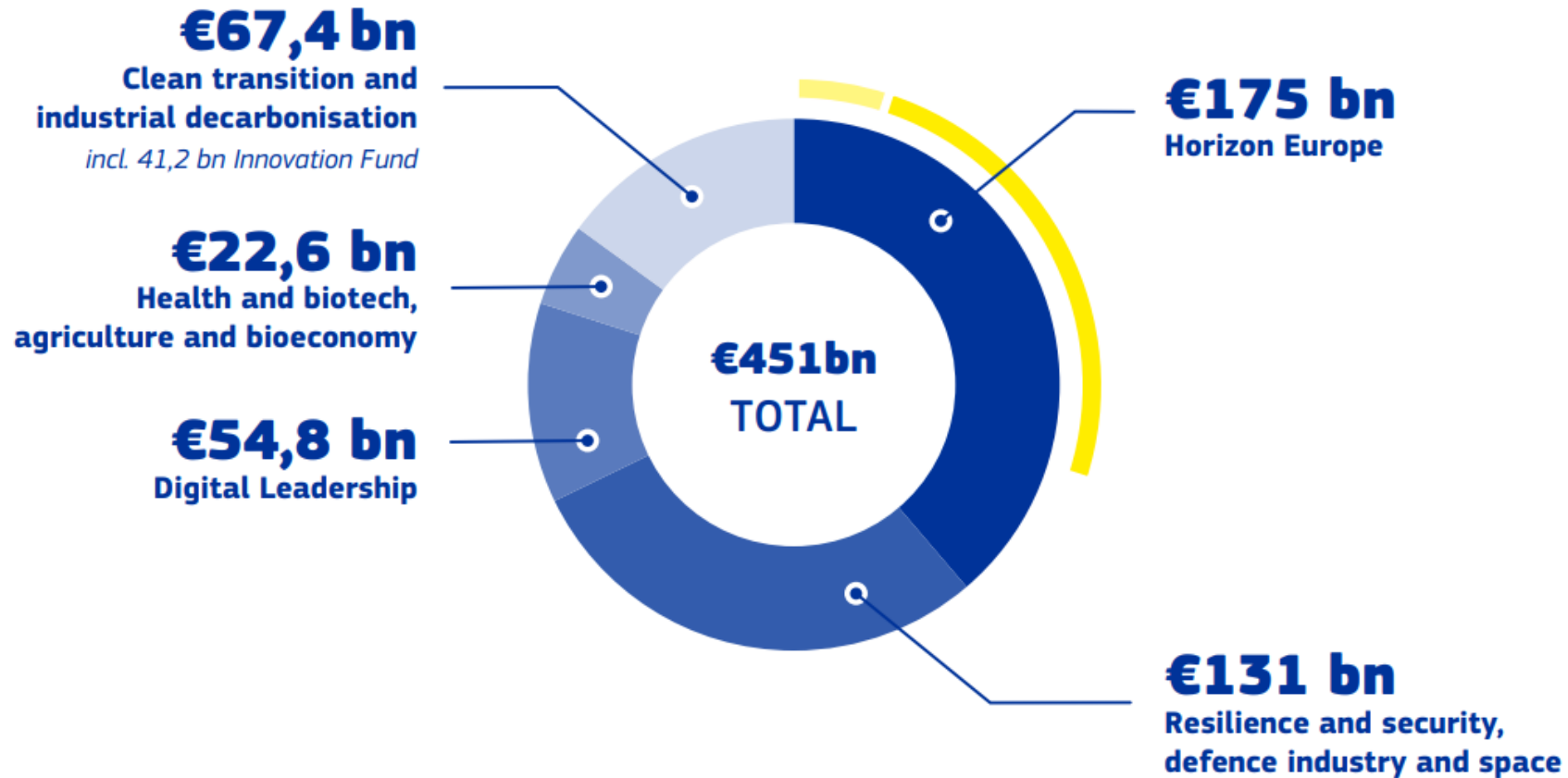
Pillar I	Pillar II	Pillar III	Pillar IV
EXCELLENT SCIENCE	COMPETITIVENESS AND SOCIETY	INNOVATION	EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
€44.079 BILLION	€75.876 BILLION	€38.785 BILLION	€16.262 BILLION
EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL	COMPETITIVENESS ¹ : 1. Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation 2. Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy 3. Digital leadership 4. Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space	EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL	ERA POLICIES
MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS		INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS AND THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE	RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURES
SCIENCE FOR EU POLICIES	SOCIETY: 1. Global societal challenges 2. EU Missions 3. New European Bauhaus Facility		WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND SPREADING EXCELLENCE

¹ Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

EXAMPLE - EU MISSIONS



European Competitiveness Fund



ECOSYSTEM SUPPORT – COMPLEX LANDSCAPE

European Universities Initiative



Erasmus+

European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)



Regional Innovation Valleys

I3 Interregional Innovation Investment Instrument

Interregional Innovation Investment (I3)
[European Regional Development Funds]

European Research Area
Policy Action on building up
national and regional R&I



New European
Innovation Agenda – Flagship 3
Ecosystems and Innovation
Divide

Partnerships for
Regional Innovation (PRI)

EUROCLUSTERS
[Single Market Programme]

Horizon
Europe Partnerships

EU Missions

Digital Innovation Hubs
[Digital Europe Programme]





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