



I3 Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument

**I3 Instrument:
Opportunities for Polish SMEs
and the Innovation Ecosystem**

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**Warsaw, Poland
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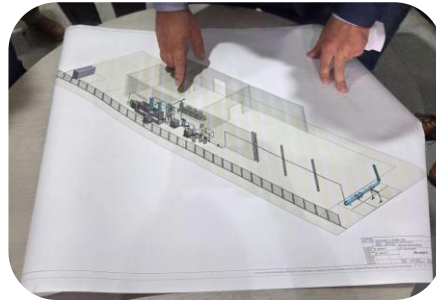


A very European scale-up story

Have you seen a promising innovation that was ready to grow—but could not find one critical piece in its own region?



Pilot facility



... Industrial partner



... First user



**or...
Investment**

The missing capability may already exist—just somewhere else in Europe.
That is where the I3, as a Cohesion policy instrument, starts.



I3 Instrument – Cohesion policy instrument

Regional cooperation becomes investment with the support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

I3 - CONNECT

Regions combine complementary Smart Specialisation strengths.

I3 - INVEST

Companies and innovation actors test, demonstrate and deploy solutions in real conditions.

I3 - SCALE

The partnership builds a **European value chain**—with a meaningful investment role for less-developed regions.



Testing early wildfire detection technologies – IT4EST project in Greece



IN-MOB I3 project brings sustainable micromobility solutions to the streets of Palermo



Workshop Kuyavian-Pomeranian

Capacity building for packaging innovation and circular-economy solutions, workshop in Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, part of the I3 EPIC project consortium

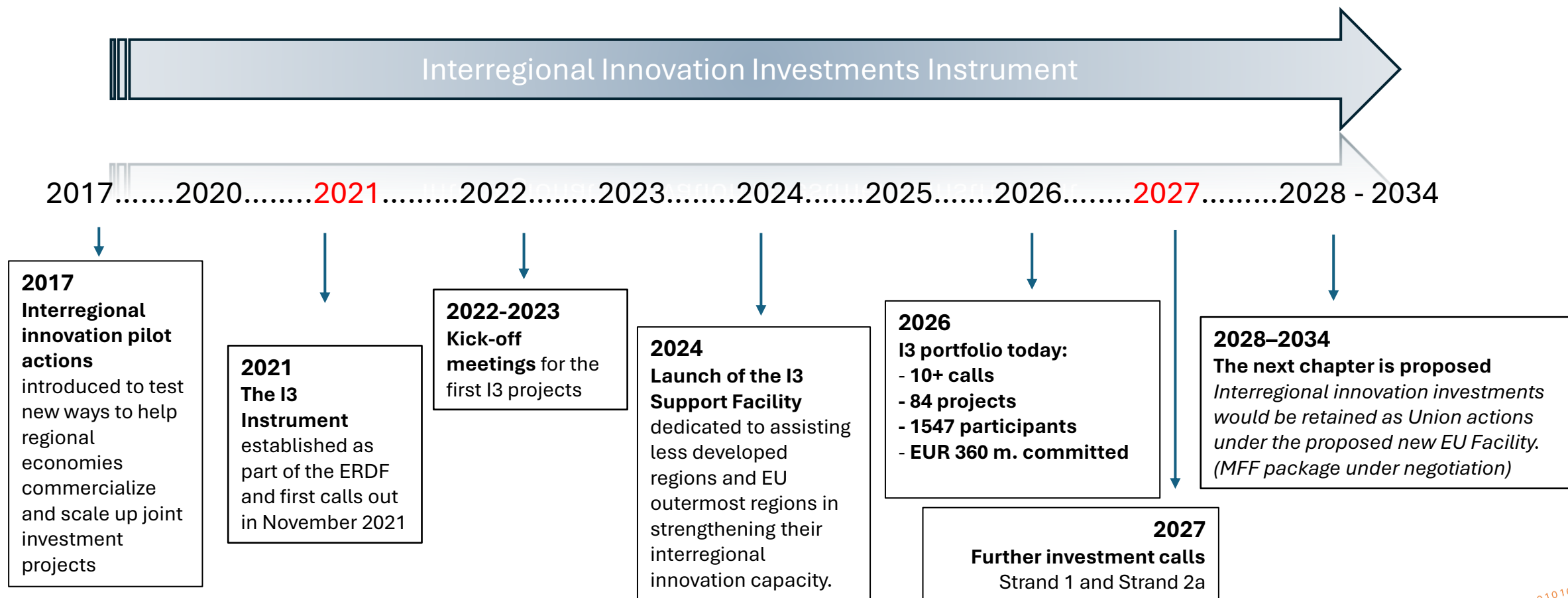
I3 Instrument in a nutshell

WHAT	FOR WHOM	HOW	HOW MUCH
Commercialisation and scaling up of innovation projects for the development of European value chains	Interregional ecosystems: researchers, businesses, civil society and public administrations involved in smart specialisation strategies established at national or regional levels	Implemented under direct management . 	ERDF* (Art. 13) EUR 490 million <i>EUR 58,4 million available in 2026 calls</i> <i>EUR 60+ million available for upcoming 2027 calls</i>
		Directorate-General for EU regional and urban policy / European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency	

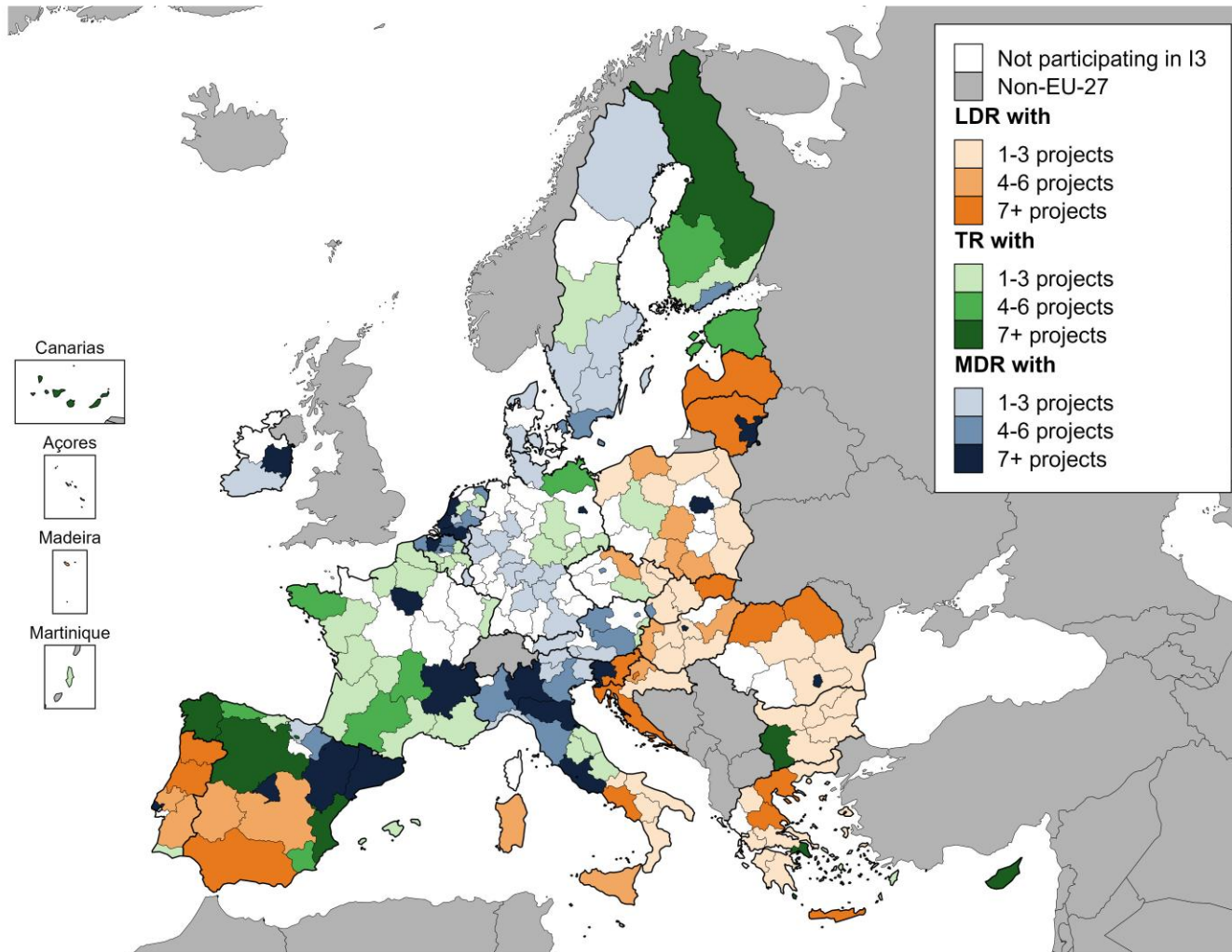
* European Regional Development Fund ([ERDF](#))



From pilot actions to a European portfolio



I3 project involvement across EU regions and cohesion groups



I3 Annual Observatory 2026

I3 Instrument

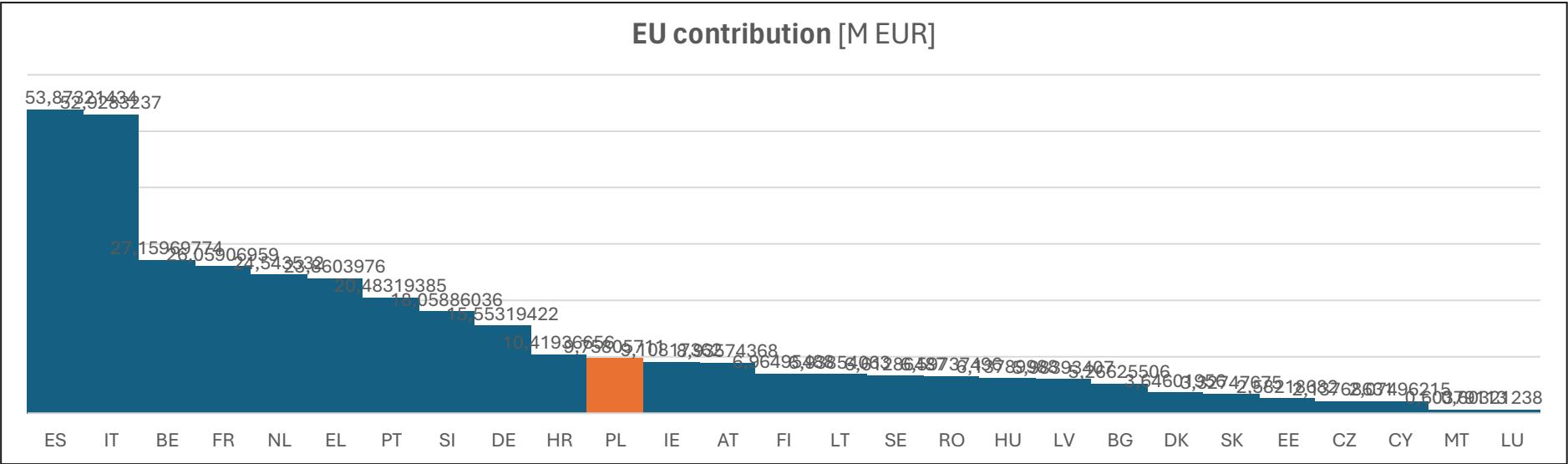
- **84 projects** (24 INV1, 29 INV2a, 31 Cap2b)
- **1547 participations** (1290 unique) from all EU MS
- **EUR 360M** out of 490M committed or spent so far (73.5%)
- **10 calls** for all strands INV1, INV2a and Cap3b
- **13,9%** - the success rate (project/ application)

Poland

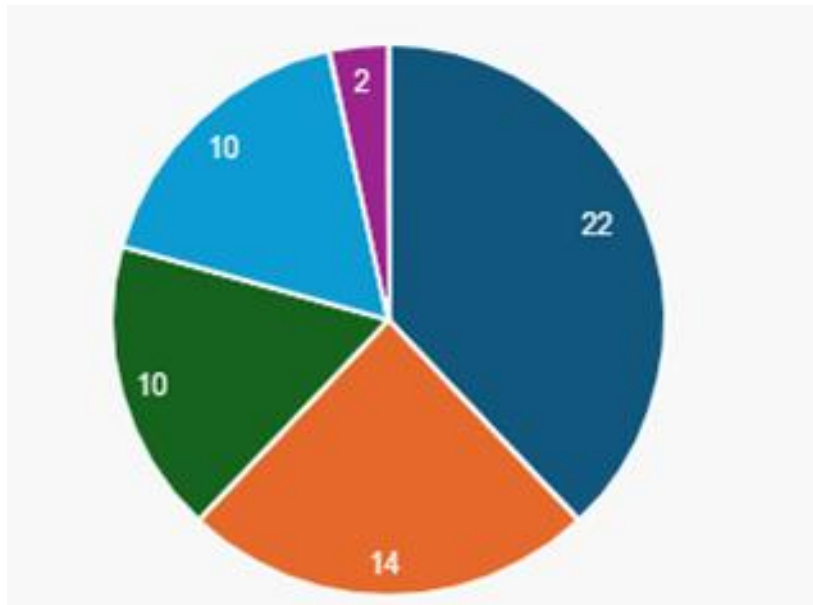
- EU ranked 9th with **58 participations** in **32 projects**
 - **EUR 9.76M** out of 360M for Polish beneficiaries (2.71%)
- 50 unique beneficiaries from 13 (out of 17) regions
- 3 roles of Coordinator from Śląskie (2) i Zachodnio-Pomorskie (1)
- Presence in all calls: INV1 (15), INV2a (15), Cap2b (28)

EU and PL participation in the I3 Instrument 2021-26

Strand	PL applicants (or PL coordinators)	PL beneficiaries (or PL coordinators)	Success rate [%]
INV1	82 (2)	15 (0)	18.3 (0)
INV2a	83 (8)	15 (2)	18.1 (25)
Cap2b	142 (15)	28 (1)	19.7 (6.7)
Total	307 (25)	58 (3)	18.9 (12)



PL participation in the I3 Instrument 2021-26



Private for-profit entities 22

Other 14

Higher or Secondary Education Establishments 10

Research Organisations 10

Public bodies 2

NUTS2	Beneficiaries
Małopolskie	16
Warszawski stołeczny	12
Śląskie	7
Pomorskie	5
Łódzkie	5
Lubelskie	3
Zachodniopomorskie	2
Warmińsko-Mazurskie	2
Podkarpackie	2
Wielkopolskie	1
Opolskie	1
Kujawsko-Pomorskie	1
Podlaskie	1
Lubuskie	0
Dolnośląskie	0
Świętokrzyskie	0
Mazowieckie	0

Coverage of the I3 Instrument across Polish regions



■ Applied and Funded ■ Applied, Never Funded ■ Never Applied

I3 Project example – I3 float: Floating-wind test sites

How to align with market, regional and cohesion objectives

i3float | 8 Regions

INNOVATION HUBS

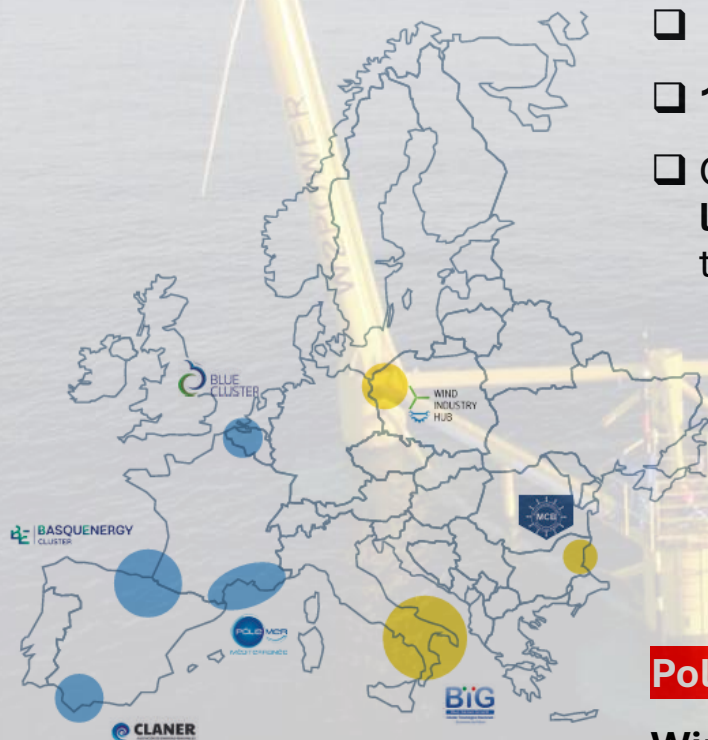
- BASQUE COUNTRY (SPAIN)
- OCCITANIE & PACA (FRANCE)
- FLANDERS (BELGIUM)
- ANDALUSIA (SPAIN)

CONNECTING NODES

- CANARY ISLANDS (SPAIN)
- CAMPANIA (ITALY)
- WEST POMERANIA (POLAND)
- VARNA (BULGARIA)

CANARY ISLANDS

CMC
CENTRO MAREMMA DI CARRARA



Four pilot platforms connect developers, suppliers, SMEs and regional ecosystems across Europe (24 partners from eight regions)

SMEs at the centre:

- ❑ **EUR 6.3 million** invested through the four core pilots.
- ❑ **15 companies** — mostly SMEs — implement the core innovations.
- ❑ **CASCADE FUNDING:** A further **EUR 3 million** will support up to **40 projects led by up to 50 SMEs**. Each selected SME can receive up to **EUR 60,000**; two-thirds are expected to come from less-developed regions.

Three boards—three functions

S3 Board: supporting regional alignment

Industry Board: supporting market relevance

LDR Board: supporting participation and capacity in less-developed and outermost regions

Polish role

Wind Industry Hub represents West Pomerania as a Connecting Node—helping replicate tested innovations and strengthen the regional floating-wind ecosystem.

I3 participants from Poland - selected examples from the I3 Observatory

Małopolskie

Akademia Górniczo-Hutnicza im. Stanisława Staszica w Krakowie — **HeatInvest**, **IRMHUB**
Fundacja Klaster LifeScience Kraków — **InnoMedCatalyst**, **VRHealthChampions**
Instytut Doradztwa sp. z o.o. — **HeatInvest**
Instytut Zrównoważonej Energii Miękinia sp. z o.o. — **HeatInvest**
Krakowski Park Technologiczny sp. z o.o. — **3DoP**, **HeatInvest**
Małopolska Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego S.A. — **HeatInvest**
MedApp S.A. — **VRHealthChampions**
Photo4Chem sp. z o.o. — **3DoP**
Politechnika Krakowska — **HeatInvest**
South Poland Cleantech Cluster sp. z o.o. — **HeatInvest**
Stowarzyszenie Gmin Polska Sieć „Energie Cités” — **HeatInvest**
Stowarzyszenie Klaster Technologii Informacyjnych w Budownictwie — **HeatInvest**
Uniwersytet Rolniczy im. Hugona Kottłaja w Krakowie — **HeatInvest**
ZUR Aleksander Józef — **IGNITE-LDR**



Warszawski stołeczny

ERP Polska Organizacja Odzysku Sprzętu Elektrycznego i Elektronicznego S.A. — **METIUM**
Healthcare Poland — **HeliX**
Instytut Gruźlicy i Chorób Płuc — **DigiONE I3**
Instytut Matki i Dziecka — **DigiONE I3**
Mazowiecka Agencja Energetyczna sp. z o.o. — **Greet CE**
Narodowy Instytut Onkologii im. Marii Skłodowskiej-Curie – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy — **DigiONE I3**
Stowarzyszenie Rozwoju Społeczno-Gospodarczego „Wiedza” — **GreenStep**
Śląskie
Górnośląski Akcelerator Przedsiębiorczości Rynkowej sp. z o.o. — **BRIDGE**
Politechnika Śląska — **BRIDGE**
RTE Lab sp. z o.o. — **VRHealthChampions**
Sieć Badawcza Łukasiewicz – Instytut Metali Nieżelaznych — **METIUM**, **coordinator**
Łódzkie
BORG Automotive sp. z o.o. — **EVEN-CLOSER**
PIOT – Związek Pracodawców Przemysłu Odzieżowego i Tekstylnego — **TEX-BREIN**
Politechnika Łódzka — **VRHealthChampions**
Uniwersytet Medyczny w Łodzi — **VRHealthChampions**
Pomorskie
Bałtycki Klaster Morski i Kosmiczny — **I3-4-BLUE-GROWTH**
Interizon — **I3HIES**
Województwo Pomorskie — **I3HIES**

Podkarpackie

Podkarpacka Dolina Wodorowa — **IH-MIE**
Stowarzyszenie Wschodni Sojusz Motoryzacyjny — **BRIDGE and SHIFT**

Lubelskie

CliniNote sp. z o.o. — **DigiONE I3**
CompuGroup Medical Polska sp. z o.o. — **DigiONE I3**

Warmińsko-mazurskie

MetaSkills sp. z o.o. — **VRHealthChampions**
OPEGIEKA sp. z o.o. — **IT4EST**

Zachodniopomorskie

Fundacja Wind Industry Hub — **I3FLOAT**
Stowarzyszenie NATUREEF — **Value4Pack**, **coordinator**

Kujawsko-pomorskie

Bydgoski Klaster Przemysłowy Dolina — **EPIC**

Podlaskie

Centrum Promocji Innowacji i Rozwoju — **GENESIS**

...



Poland leading European value chains through I3

Polish coordinators — from strategic raw materials to circular food packaging



METIUM — Urban mining

Coordinator: Sieć Badawcza Łukasiewicz – Instytut Metali Nieżelaznych, Gliwice, Śląskie

I3 Strand 2a · 2025–2028 | 19 partners · 10 countries

Builds four European value chains to recover strategic raw materials—including battery materials and rare earths from industrial and electronic waste, reducing Europe’s strategic dependency on imported raw materials.

Coordinator’s role: Leads the European consortium and connects waste collection, dismantling, processing and advanced hydrometallurgical technologies.

Why it matters for Poland: Places Polish and Silesian expertise at the centre of Europe’s effort to secure strategic raw materials and build higher-value circular industries.



VALUE4PACK — Circular food packaging

Coordinator: Stowarzyszenie NATUREEF, Szczecin, Zachodniopomorskie

I3 Capacity Building · 2023–2025 | 14 partners · 11 countries

Connects clusters, SMEs and researchers to develop more circular food-packaging solutions, regional roadmaps and new interregional investment ideas.

Coordinator’s role: Leads the partnership and connects Polish packaging, food and recycling companies with European expertise, partners and investment opportunities.

Why it matters for Poland: Helps Polish SMEs respond to new EU packaging requirements and turn circular packaging ideas into international business and investment projects.



Annual I3 Instrument Forum 2026

Register now

01.10.2026 - Brussels, Belgium

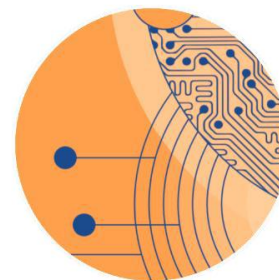
30.09.2026 - I3 Instrument Coordinators' Day



Networking opportunities



Panel discussions



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