

## European Consortium Celebrates Successful Launch of RISE Project

A month after its successful launch, the European collaborative initiative RISE (Accelerate Innovation and Sustainable Investments) is making waves across Bulgaria, Slovenia, and Portugal. Cleantech BG, Digipolis, LE2C, N-ABLE, ACPMR, Paper Province, ICAMCyL Foundation, and TECOS have joined forces to redefine interregional cooperation, fostering innovation ecosystems and identifying investment projects in less developed regions.

The RISE project is making significant strides in fostering innovation, sustainability, and interregional collaboration in less developed regions. By bringing together a diverse consortium and aligning with key domains of the green and digital transition, RISE is poised to make a lasting impact on European ecosystems. The project marks a new chapter in driving positive change and reinforces the commitment to a more sustainable and innovative future.

### About RISE

#### Project Introduction and Objectives

Project RISE aims to fast-track innovation deployment and catalyze investment for sustainable interregional cooperation. Focused on Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing, Bioeconomy, Smart Technologies, Industrial Modernization, Bioenergy, Solar, and Sustainable Buildings, RISE engages quadruple-helix ecosystems to enhance the capacity of less developed regions. It brings together expertise from three transition and two developed regions, anchored in five key pillars:

- 1) Focus on innovation for less developed regions
- 2) Support in key areas: Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing, Bioeconomy, Smart Technologies, Bioenergy, Solar, and Sustainable Buildings
- 3) Identification of shared S3 areas
- 4) SMEs at the center of activities
- 5) Developing a Pipeline of relevant projects

#### Analysis of the Status Quo and Setting Up a Pan-European Ecosystem

In the initial phase, RISE mapped local innovation ecosystems, assessed potential pathways for common future opportunities, and strategized actions for creating new business opportunities within the quadruple-helix ecosystems.

#### Ecosystem Building and Facilitating Collaboration in EU Value Chains

Subsequently, RISE has been actively constructing an interregional ecosystem, focusing on designing roadmaps, establishing long-lasting partnerships, and supporting collaborative endeavors to boost the innovation capacity of international ecosystems.

#### Pipeline of Investment Projects

In the third phase, RISE is developing a cross-regional innovation investment projects program, involving the matching of partners, merging interests, guiding the process of drafting joint innovation investment plans, ensuring robustness, and achieving mature business plans for scale-up projects.

## **Bringing Projects Close to Market**

The final phase concentrates on vital investment planning for validated projects, incorporating a fundraising strategy, compiling cases for I3 Strand 1 and Strand 2a funding, mapping EU investors, and facilitating connections between RISE project holders and relevant investors.

## **Stakeholder participation**

RISE invites SMEs, startups, big companies, regional/local authorities, universities, research organizations, clusters, technology parks, chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations, and NGOs to participate. Eligible applicants must be from less developed regions (LDR), with transition (TR) and more developed regions (MDR) participating as application partners. RISE focuses on TRL6 solutions and categorizes applications based on strategic investors, financial investors, mixed approaches, and partners for interregional cooperation.

## **Connect with RISE on social media**

To stay updated on RISE's latest developments, follow us on social media:

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