

I3 Instrument Support Facility Discussion Groups Creation of regional, national, European & global value chains, and challenges for EU regions

The **Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Support Facility** is an initiative by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) and the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO).

It provides support to regional and national innovation stakeholders and public authorities, focused on less developed regions and outermost regions, fostering strong interregional innovation ecosystems and reinforcing the objectives of the **Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument**.



Overall objective and approach

The I3 Instrument Support Facility Discussion Groups (I3DGs) provide a platform for exchange between policy makers already actively engaged or willing to be engaged in innovation policy and interregional collaboration.

This peer-learning and knowledge-sharing space for exploration and innovation in policymaking aims to:

- Leverage on I3 project results
- Collect examples of good practice in the field of interregional innovation investments
- Enhance capacities of policy makers to develop and propose new policy solutions supporting interregional collaborations



Main focus

The I3 Instrument presents an excellent tool to leverage local knowledge and strengths and connects it to external networks and opportunities, fostering the creation of regional, national, European and global value chains. The focus on building value chains is a unique aspect of the I3 Instrument compared to other EU-funded programmes. It is viewed as one of the most valuable features, enabling consortia to link different regional strengths and leverage complementary resources.

The work of the I3DG in 2025 intends to address the value chain creation challenges making actionable recommendations and proposing new policy approaches around the following questions:

- How can we build trust and capacity across regions to strengthen SME participation in interregional value chains?
- How can the I3 Instrument support and amplify efforts to address major societal challenges, such as through the EU Missions and the 'twin transition'?



Scheduled meetings:

- Kick off (*April 2025*)
- 2nd meeting (*June 2025*)
- 3rd meeting (*September 2025*)

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