

EU Danube Region Strategy

PA 8 LIGHTHOUSE

SUPPLY CHAINS & FINANCE



Vinnovate

Vanguard Initiative/IDEA Consult

Romania and Austria



Steinbeis
Europa Zentrum
Enabling Innovators to Grow



Gospodarska
zbornica
Slovenije
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry of Slovenia



DANUBE REGION
strategy
Prosperity through Diversity

Interreg Programme
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



REPUBLIC of CROATIA
Ministry of
Economy



Baden-Württemberg
Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Labour and Tourism

Basics

Vinnovate



Name: Vinnovate Call

Countries:

Lower Austria, North-East Romania,
And other regions from outside of
the Danube Region

Scoring: 42/50

Project Coordinator:



The Vinnovate Secreteriat
by IDEA Consult, Belgium



<https://www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu/multipurpose-page/call-2025>

Contact Person:



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Key Project Data:



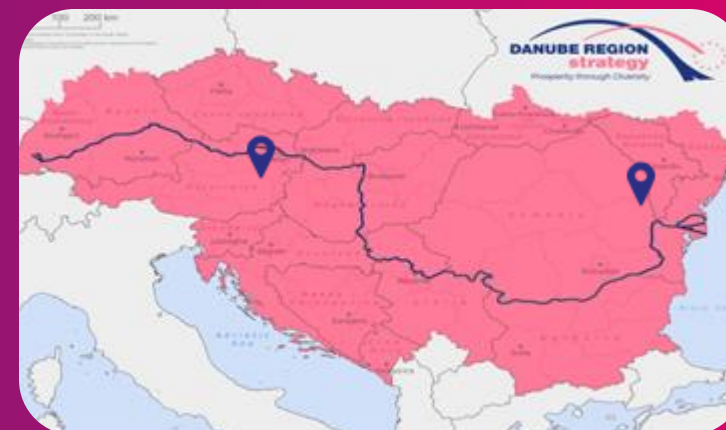
Since 2024

Project Partners:

Vanguard Initiative

The Vinnovate Secreteriat

The participating regions (see slide 4))



About the project

Vinnovate is a funding mechanism of the **Vanguard Initiative**. It is created to enable the funding of innovation projects with yearly open calls.

The aim of the call is to generate **industry-led + strategic interregional projects**.

The mechanism supports international innovation projects by providing grants.

Vinnovate is integrated to **thematic Vanguard Initiative Pilots activities** → offer includes integrated innovation support to stakeholders beyond funding only, and prior/post-project duration

Vinnovate



Innovative because it is an interregional funding mechanism that is

- 1) fully **anchored in regional ecosystems** (smart specialisation strategy-based joint programming + activation of regional resources)
- 2) **intertwined/interconnected with other Vanguard Initiative activities** (matchmaking, etc.), enabling to offer innovators a comprehensive innovation support
- 3) Focused on **current transition requirements** and aims such as a sustainable economy

Participating Regions of the Vanguard Initiative

First Vnnovate Call funding round (2024):

Lower Austria

Lower Saxony

Norte

Galicia

South NL (Noord Brabant)

East NL

North East Romania

Emilia Romagna

Flanders

Wallonia

Wales

Second Vnnovate Call funding round (2025):

Lower Austria

Lower Saxony

Norte

Galicia

South NL (Noord Brabant)

East NL

North East Romania

Lombardy

Emilia Romagna

Basque Country

Wales

Funding proposal preparation

Vinnovate



Initial Support Phase

Webinars, Matchmaking
At least 1 SME + at least 2
organisations located in at
least 2 distinct Vinnovate
member regions/states

Full Proposal Submission
To regional funding agency

Finalization and Contracting
Projects start within three months

Project Fit Form Submission

Vinnovate Secretariat
checks eligibility
Combination of regional
funding money with
interregional projects

Evaluation and Approval
dually by Vinnovate Secreteriat
And regional agencies

Impact/Added value

Projects are actively contributing to the **twin transition**:

Green transition (sustainability, climate goals)

Digital transition (technological innovation)

They are enabling the **deployment of new approaches**, likely in areas such as:

Smart manufacturing

Circular economy

AI and data-driven innovation

Cross-sectoral collaboration

Outcome

Support for new value chains: Vinnovate encourages the creation of **interregional value chains**

→ enhancing SME competitiveness

European Networking: Vinnovate strengthens **European-level SME networks**

→ fostering innovation and resilience

Future Readiness: Aligns with broader EU goals for **green and digital transformation**

→ contributing to a **forward-thinking regional economy**

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