

VANGUARD INITIATIVE

New growth through smart specialisation

The Vanguard Initiative experience in cross regional collaboration

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VANGUARD INITIATIVE

NEW GROWTH THROUGH SMART SPECIALISATION

Ambitions

Partners

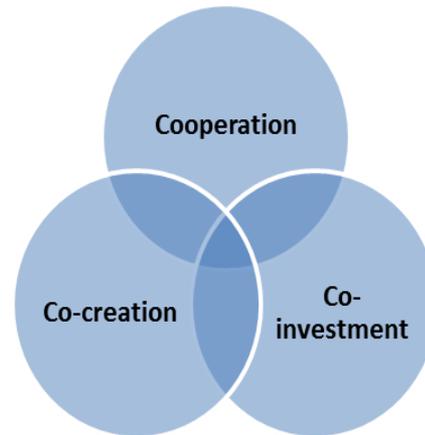
Pilot Initiatives

Activities

Contacts



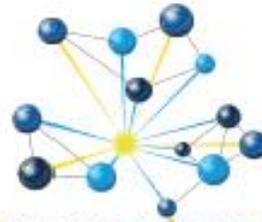
The **Vanguard Initiative** is a coalition of European regions committed to enhancing the **growth and competitiveness of their companies**, through technological development, entrepreneurial innovation, inter-regional cooperation, co-investment and industrial leadership.



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regions

www.s3vanguardinitiative.eu



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Vanguard Initiative Pilot Projects

- Vanguard Initiative regions explore industry-led opportunities in specific Key Enabling Technology (KET) areas where inter-regional collaboration and co-investment could result in the development of EU value chains.
- The aim is to generate proposals which can be translated into jointly funded projects or pilots.

‘Conditions’:

- Industry-leadership
- Demonstrable international market potential for large-scale projects/investments
- Exemplars to boost EU-value chains through smart specialisation
- Leading by example in supporting the European industrial policy

Vanguard Initiative Pilot Projects



- The **focus** is on the joint development of networks of demonstrators and pilots to accelerate market development in Europe for existing and emerging industries with competitive and high-value added products

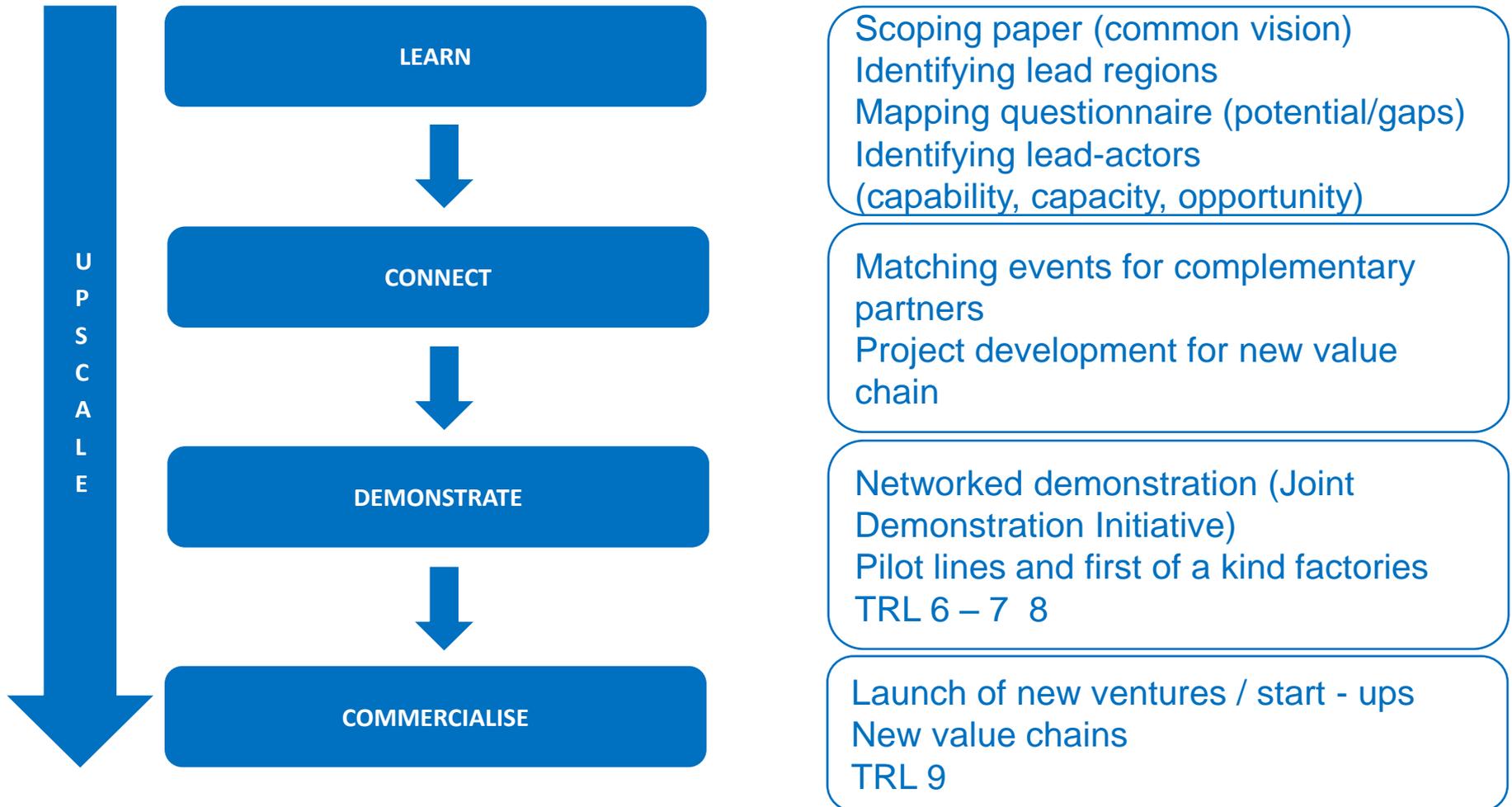
1st generation pilots started in 2014

- Advanced Manufacturing for Energy Related Applications in Harsh Environments (lead: Scotland and Basque Country)
- High-performance production through 3D-printing (lead: South-Netherlands, Flanders and Norte)
- Efficient and Sustainable Manufacturing (lead: Catalonia and Lombardy)

2nd generation pilots started in 2015

- Bioeconomy – Interregional cooperation on innovative use of non - food Biomass ((lead: Randstad Region and Lombardy)
- Nano Technology (lead: Skåne and Tampere)

Vanguard Initiative Methodology



Vanguard Initiative

Where are we now?



Vanguard Initiative

Lessons learned & support needed

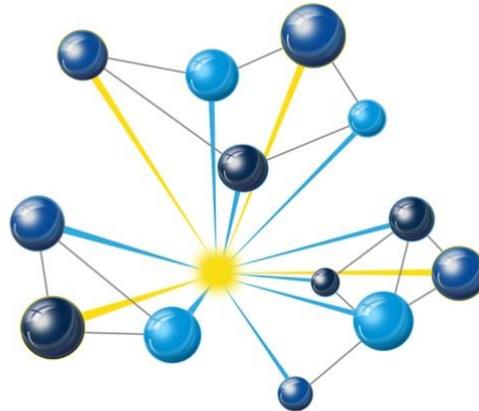
Depth of Data – you can't know what you don't know and the S3 strategy only lets you scratch the surface. More mapping and matching of capability and infrastructure across regions is needed. (S3 Platforms/ESFRI Roadmap)

Engage industry at the right time – you need to be able to explain what is in it for them.

Share learning – while the pilots aren't the same, the issues and challenges often are. This is about more than just a series of attractive projects, it is about adjusting and aligning regional ecosystems to accelerate time to market.

Need to get “investor ready” – this means tackling issues like IPR, the funding mix, market foresighting and getting the right team in place.

This stuff is hard to do and it takes time! – To date the VI has by and large self funded the development of the pilots, with support from the Commission for certain activities. There is an opportunity to take the evidence base the VI has generated and to use it to develop new tools for the benefit of all regions in Europe.



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Conclusion

The Vanguard Initiative is a clear example of the power of regional innovation ecosystems and of the added benefit that can be achieved if they are connected together.