



OUTPUT FACTSHEET

Project index number	CE0100233	Acronym	FI4INN
Output type ("x" to be included)	Strategy/ action plan	X	Pilot action Solution
Output number (O.xx)	1.1	Output title	Strategy for a more diversified portfolio of financing schemes
If the output target is > 1 in the AF, please specify the output(s) described in the factsheet	1		
Output delivery date	30/11/2024		
Project website	https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/fi4nn/		

Summary description of the output

Please present the output by addressing the following topics.

Territorial challenges and needs in the regions specifically addressed by the output
(max. 700 characters)

The Strategy for a More Diversified Portfolio of Financing Schemes addresses key challenges in Central Europe, covering regions like Carinthia (Austria), Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Piemonte and Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy), Silesia (Poland), and Slovenia, recognizing the varying levels of innovation and economic development among the regions. The Strategy aims to bridge this divide by providing a roadmap for policymakers to adopt modern financial instruments. By enhancing the accessibility of diverse funding options, it seeks to improve exchanges and strengthen support for less developed areas, ultimately promoting sustainable growth tailored to local conditions.

Main aim(s) of the output and how it contributes to tackle the identified challenge(s)
(max. 500 characters)

Enable the adoption of diverse financial instruments tailored to the specific needs of innovative projects, addressing gaps in funding while integrating ESG criteria. Strengthen regional ecosystems to better support startups and SMEs, enhancing their growth potential. Promote a culture of entrepreneurship and innovation by simplifying access to financial resources, ensuring that more businesses can realize their ideas and drive economic progress.

Technical description of the output (e.g. scope, main features, innovative elements etc.)

(max. 1500 characters)

The Strategy serves as a guide for CE policymakers, aiming to modernize the financial support landscape for SMEs and startups. It addresses critical gaps in innovation funding by providing a clear pathway for adopting diverse financial instruments. It draws on data from surveys, collaborative workshops, and stakeholder consultations to streamline access to resources, ensuring that support mechanisms are both responsive and effective.

Main Objectives: Drive the adoption of tailored financial instruments that meet the specific needs of innovative projects. Strengthen the regional capacity to effectively support SMEs and startups. Promote a culture of entrepreneurship by simplifying access to diverse funding sources, including those aligned with ESG criteria.

Key Features:

- **Virtual Knowledge Center:** A comprehensive digital repository that provides best practice examples of innovative financing models. This resource facilitates continuous learning and helps stakeholders adapt successful approaches to their own contexts.
- **Evidence-Based Recommendations:** The strategy is enriched by input from extensive stakeholder engagement, including insights from SMEs, startups, financial institutions, and regional experts.
- **Design of a Dynamic Tool for Innovative Support Instruments:** This interactive tool is intended to identify the most suitable financing options based on applicants' profiles. It matches needs with funding opportunities and aims to simplify decision-making for policymakers (and applicants).

Together, these elements empower policymakers to enhance the innovation ecosystem, offering a more accessible, efficient, and sustainable financial environment for growth-oriented businesses in CE area.

Involvement of target groups during output development and/or implementation

(max. 700 characters)

Target groups, including SMEs, startups, financial institutions, and regional stakeholders, have played a pivotal role in shaping the output. Their insights were gathered through surveys, focus groups, and collaborative workshops, ensuring that the strategy aligns with real-world needs and challenges. Regular consultations allowed stakeholders to contribute to the development of tailored financial instruments and the design of the dynamic tool. This participatory approach not only fosters ownership among target groups but also enhances the relevance and applicability of the strategy across diverse regional contexts.

Cooperation dimension of the output, i.e. joint development within the partnership and, if applicable, joint implementation (see output indicator definitions in chapter 1.3.3 and Annex 2 of the programme manual)

(max. 700 characters)

The strategy was developed collaboratively with project partners and stakeholders. Inputs were gathered through analysis, regional and international consultations, and an online survey. Follow-up workshops refined the vision, mission, and goals, with partners contributing local context. The final strategy will be disseminated to create awareness, gather feedback, and build support for implementation. The collaborative approach involving policymakers, financial institutions, and experts fostered joint ownership and ensured the strategy reflects regional needs. Joint implementation will be supported by coordinated efforts to disseminate findings and best practices, leveraging partners' strengths to enhance the Central European innovation ecosystem.

Results - expected change and lasting effects in the territories generated specifically by the output, its uptake by relevant organisations and benefits for target groups

(max. 1000 characters)

The Strategy aims to foster a shared vision among partners and local stakeholders, laying the groundwork for transformative change across the targeted territories, as a way out of both the middle-technology and middle-income traps. By implementing the developed tools and recommendations, the project is expected to positively impact the business support ecosystem focusing on innovation driven SMEs. A key outcome will be the diversification of support instruments tailored to the specific needs of Central European SMEs and startups with high growth and innovation potential, addressing critical challenges such as limited access to innovation funding, bureaucratic burdens, and low awareness of existing resources. By streamlining processes, reducing administrative burdens, and enhancing communication within the ecosystem, the Strategy aims to stimulate innovation and job creation, contributing to overall economic growth in the region. This collaborative approach is envisioned to create a more supportive environment for startups and innovative SMEs, ultimately leading to increased competitiveness and resilience.

Ownership and durability of the output after the project end, considering financial and institutional support including, if applicable, maintenance

(max. 700 characters)

The ownership and durability of the Strategy for a More Diversified Portfolio of Financing Schemes will rely on the collaborative commitment of stakeholders, including policymakers, business support organizations, and financial institutions. While the Strategy provides a framework rather than a binding policy, its successful implementation hinges on sustained partnerships and knowledge exchange. Financial support from regional and national institutions will be critical for maintaining the initiatives post-project. Additionally, the ongoing use of the Virtual Knowledge Center will facilitate the continuous updating and dissemination of best practices, ensuring the Strategy remains relevant and effectively supports innovation across Central Europe.

Transferability of the output to other territories, sectors or target groups and planned measures for supporting such transfer

(max. 700 characters)

While addressing specific gaps in Central European innovation ecosystems, the project's knowledge and tools are adaptable across borders and sectors, even beyond Europe. Collaborating with other approved CE projects enhances the transferability of recommendations, which can be implemented at local, regional, and national levels using based on participatory approach by stakeholders involved in the design and evaluation of support instruments. To maximize impact, key outputs will be widely published and shared, fostering the adoption of best practices. Additionally, tailored workshops and webinars will support stakeholders in adapting these tools to local needs, ensuring their relevance to diverse geographic contexts and target groups.

Related final deliverable(s) (Number(s) and title(s) to be included)	D.1.1.1 - Analysis of SME satisfaction with the current opportunities D.1.1.2 - Recommendations to simplify FIs access D.1.2.1 - Virtual knowledge center for innovative support schemes D.1.2.2 - 3 transnational knowledge transfer workshops on innovative intervention models D.1.2.3 - Lessons learnt report to implement diversified portfolio of financing schemes in CE regions
Output web link (if applicable)	https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/fi4inn/?tab=outputs
GPS coordinates (if applicable)	