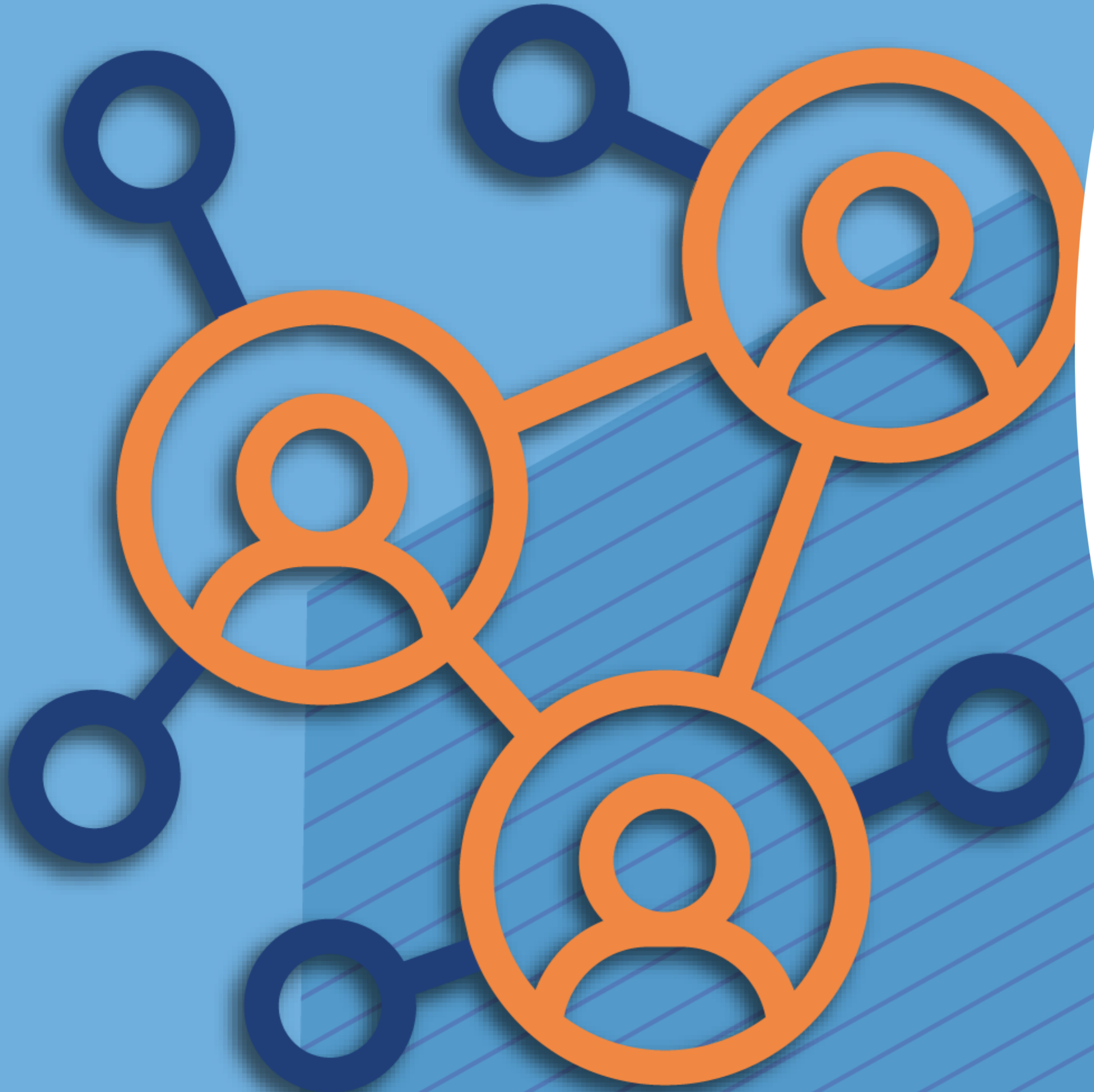


European Cohesion Policy and Insular Entrepreneurship

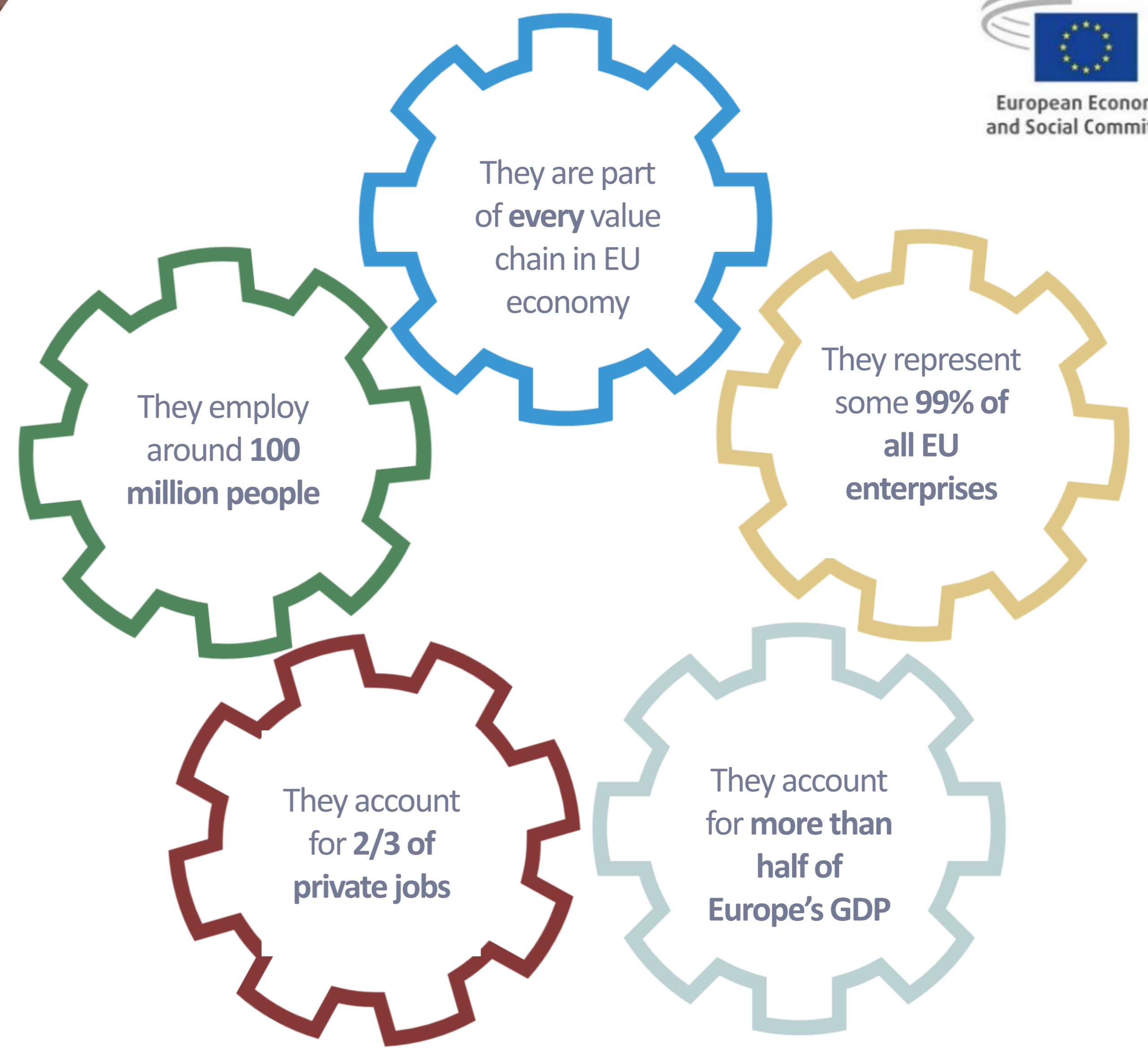


1. European Cohesion Policy and Insular Entrepreneurship

Irene Mikelis
INSULEUR Expert



SMEs: The backbone of European Economy



Cohesion Policy is the largest source of EU support for SMEs

COHESION and insular SMEs

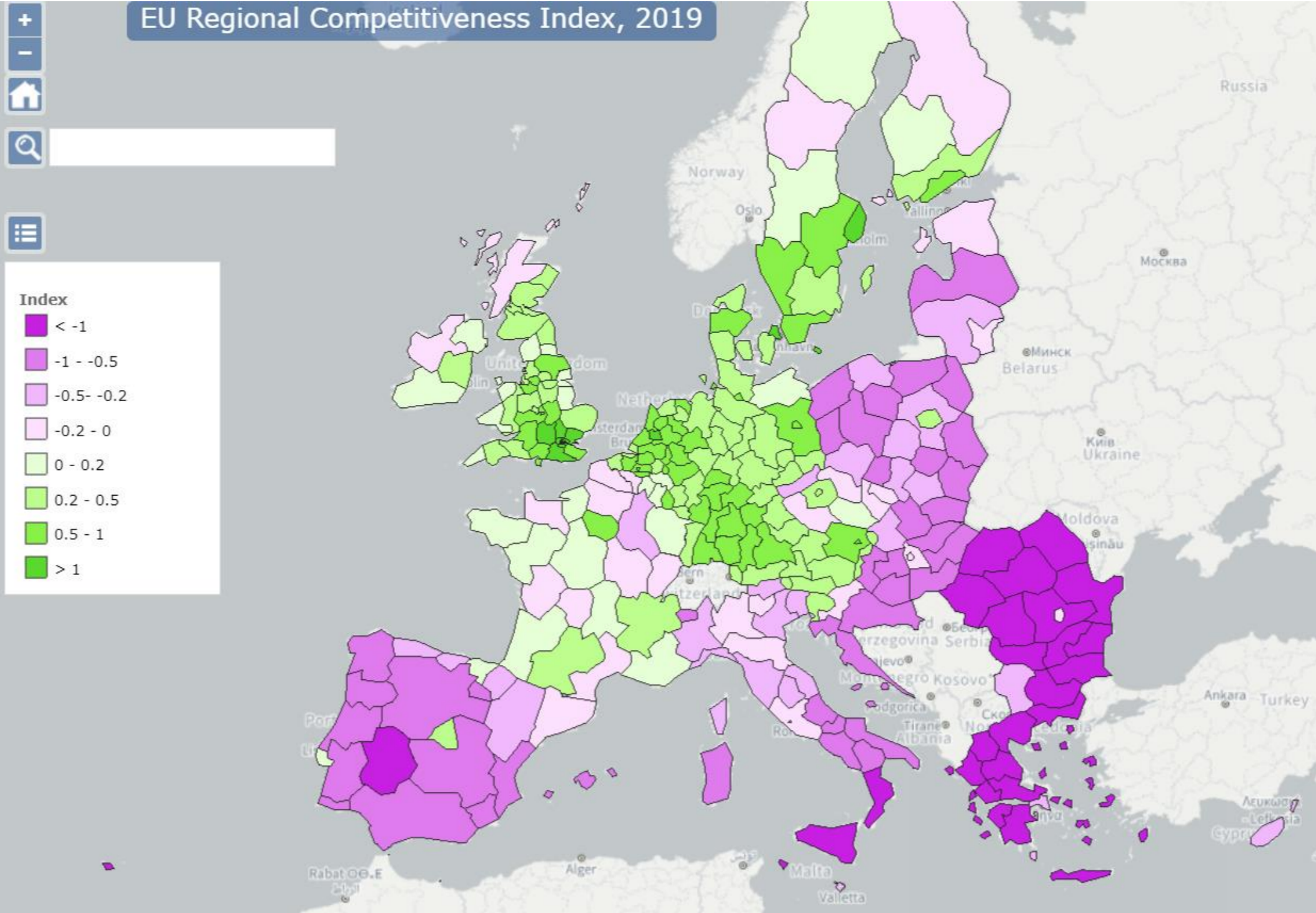


Cohesion Policy is the largest source of EU support for SMEs but..

The report points out the need for a new development paradigm for less developed regions and peripheral regions. However, it does not address in a comprehensive manner the situation of territories beset by permanent geographical handicaps mentioned in article 174 TFEU.

WHY IS THIS OF OUTERMOST IMPORTANCE FOR INSULAR SMEs ?

Because most, if not all, **insular regions score way under** the EU average and their respective national **average competitiveness indexes**



COHESION and insular SMEs

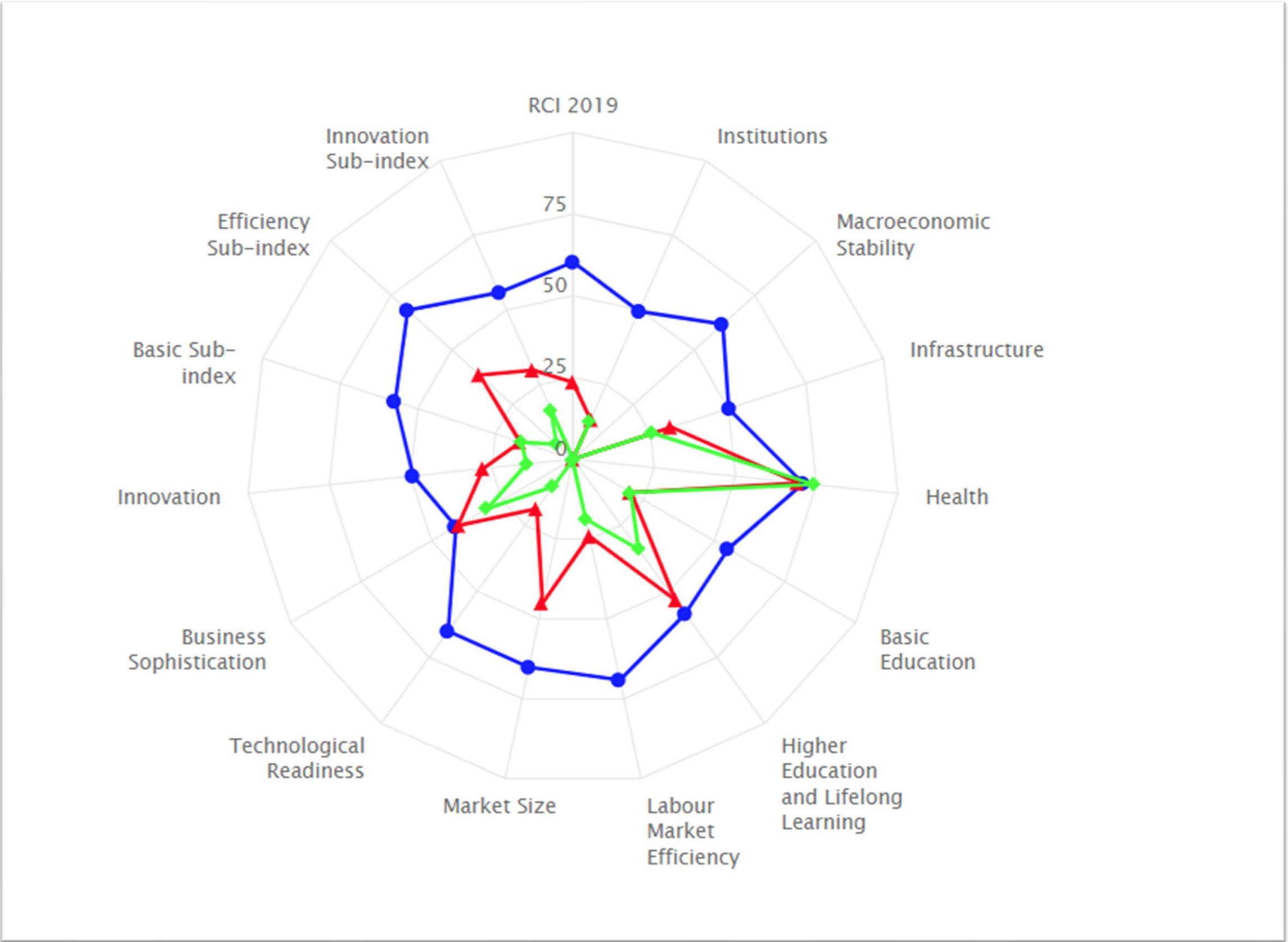


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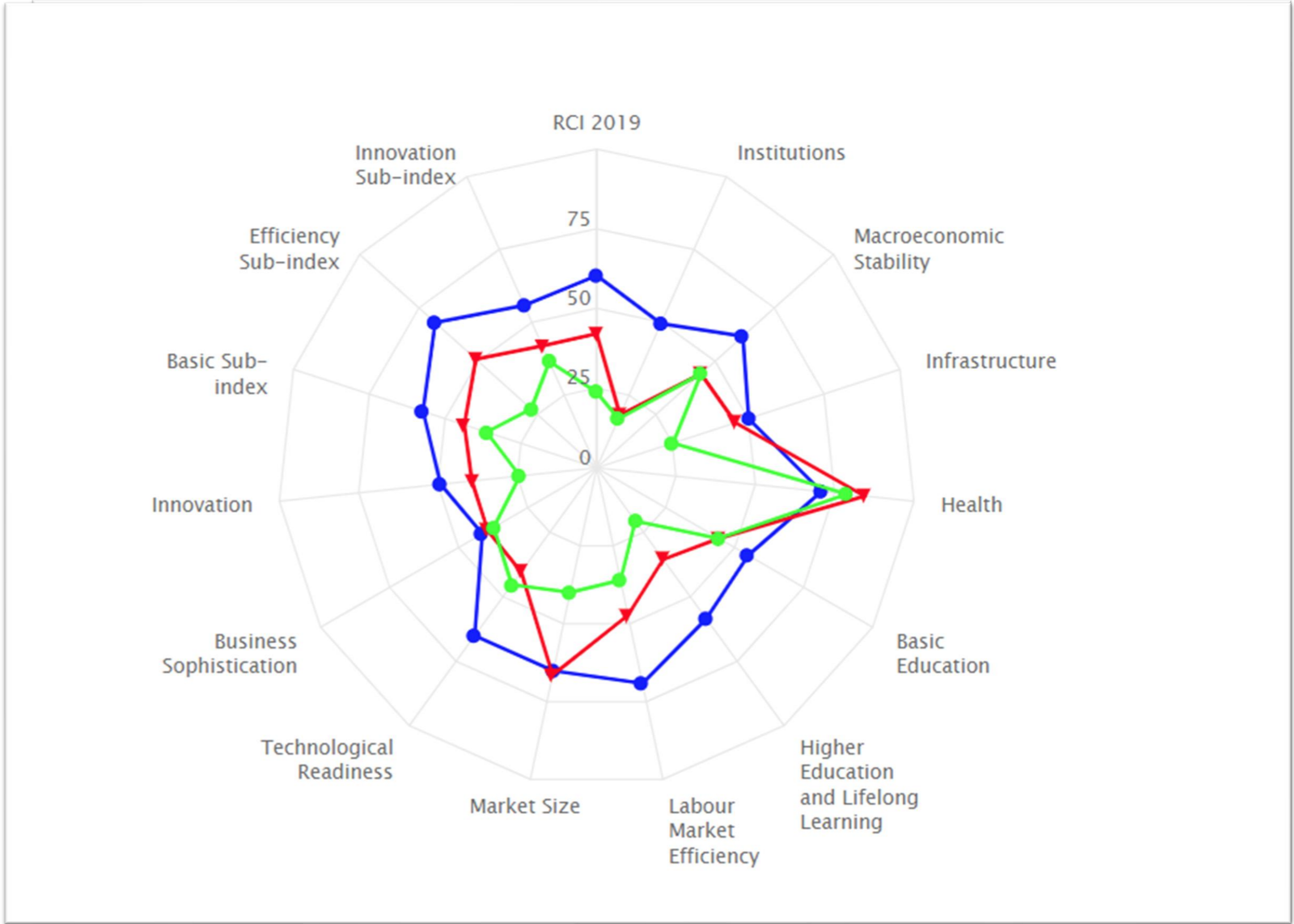
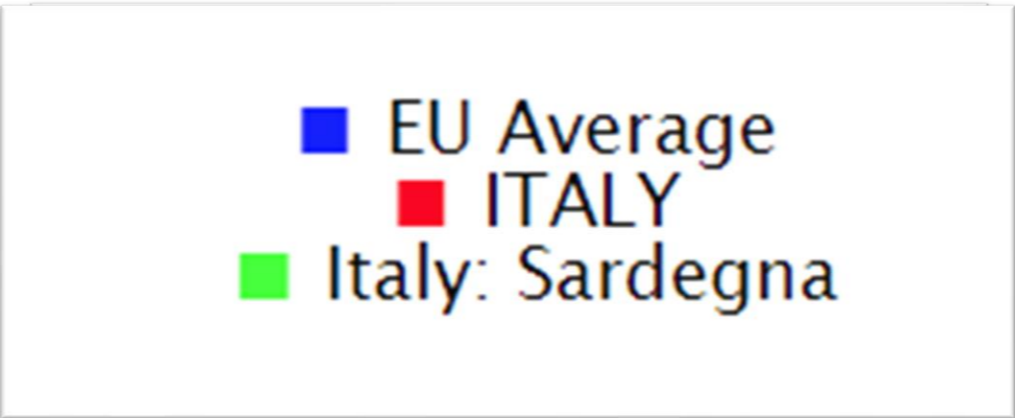


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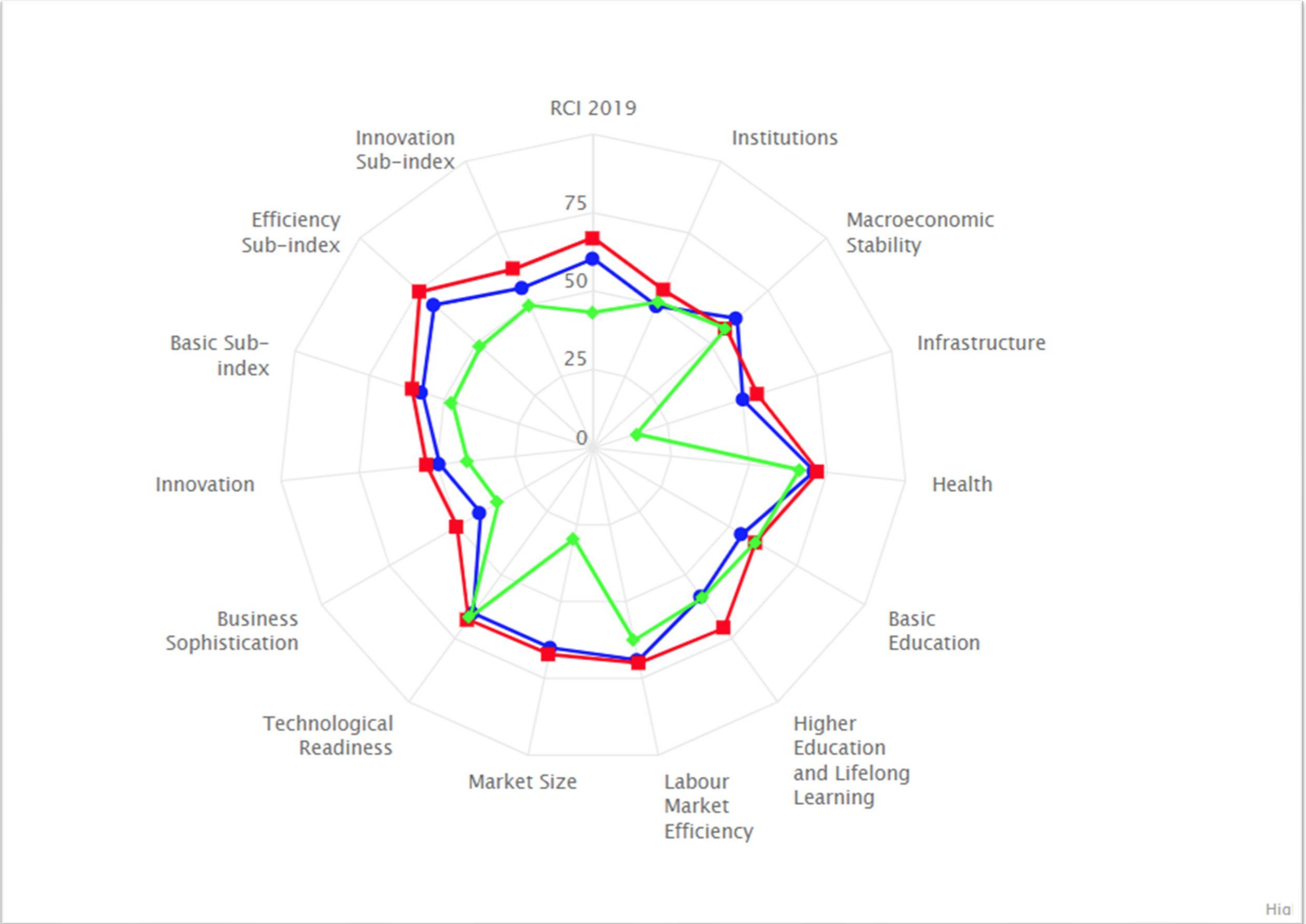


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COHESION and insular SMEs



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WHY IS THIS OF OUTERMOST IMPORTANCE FOR INSULAR SMEs ?

Because most, if not all, **insular regions score way under** the EU average and their respective national **average competitiveness indexes**

Because **SMEs are fundamental to insular territories' economies**, for competitiveness, growth and jobs especially amongst young people.

Because **disparities between islands and mainland are further and constantly deepened** by emerging trends (climate change, technological transformations, demographic changes..) and the effects of the pandemic.

The CAUSES of the COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE

SMEs on islands face constraints and extra costs resulting from the characteristics of insularity.

Small size

Distance / Remoteness

Vulnerability

Parameters that create territorial, economic and social handicaps, as recognised in Article 174 TFEU, which hinder among other the fair integration of islands in the single market

- Local market that is limited, fragmented and remote with low demand;
- High transport costs for logistics, freight and insurance, on account of distance as well as instances of imperfect competition (oligopolies or even monopolies);
- High energy costs which plays a crucial role in competitiveness and entrepreneurship;
- Inability to achieve economies of scale due to the small size of the market, which results in high unit costs for both businesses and public services;
- Poorly developed inter-industrial relations due to a strong tendency to specialise in exploiting one resource, to produce one type of good or to provide one type of service;
- Lack of qualified workers; or a tendency for qualified workers to leave islands in order to find adequate employment elsewhere;
- Lack of entrepreneurial expertise, as entrepreneurs tend to leave islands to invest in more profitable markets;
- Lack of infrastructure and services for businesses at a comparable level to mainland regions, e.g. in the field of connectivity / telecommunications, training or risk capital;
- Islands economy can have considerable damage from external factors .

The CAUSES of the COMPETITIVE DISADVANTAGE

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Small size

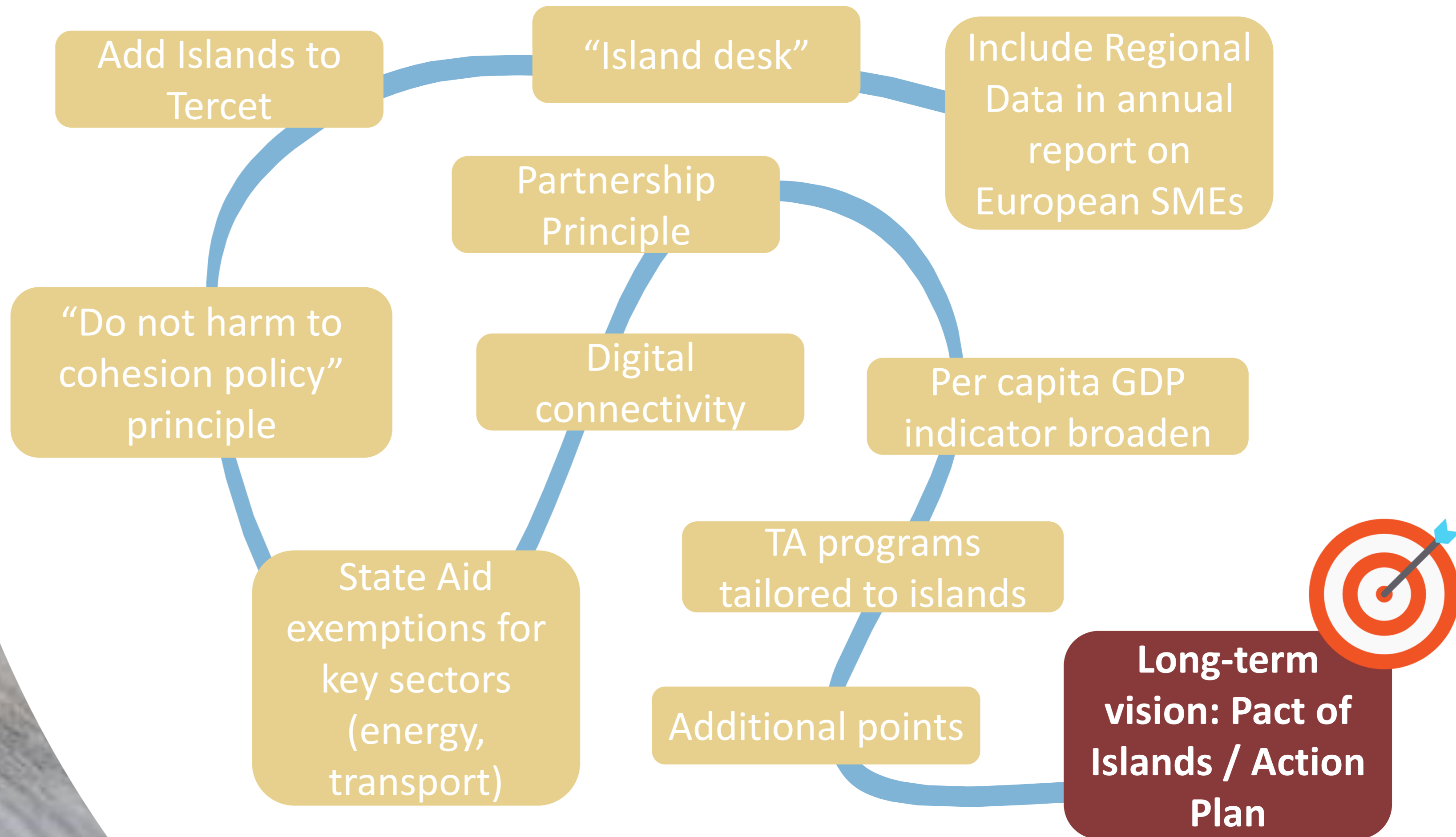
Distance / Remoteness

Vulnerability

Islands: lands of opportunity and laboratories for innovation and technologies, upheld by their SMEs

- Test-beds for the deployment of innovative technologies addressing real-life challenges
- Excellent laboratories for technological innovation particularly in the fields of energy (RES, EE), transport, mobility, and sustainable tourism etc.
- Export of niche products guaranteeing the islands' place in markets with high added value
- Inclusion of specific actions for islands in the latest version of the [2021-2027 Interreg Euro-MED programme](#) and the acknowledgment that *"Islands are a prominent example of how circular economy models can be successful in achieving green transition, by responding to their specific territorial challenges"* while it is also reminded that *"the management of natural resources, the economic and social ecosystems and local constraints and opportunities linked to the insular dimension make islands the prime location to test and implement new circular approaches; therefore, they naturally are one of the most important target territories of the tools and practices developed by projects"*.

The gap can't be breached without measures and a specific strategy targeted to islands.



Focus on Interreg MED – Best Practices / Lessons learned



2. Focus on Interreg MED – Best Practices / Lessons learned

Irene Mikelis – Marina Maniati, PhD
INSULEUR Experts



Interreg
Mediterranean



**BLUE
CROWDFUNDING**

Entrepreneurship & Cohesion Policy in Islands through the lens of the BlueCrowdfunding Project

BLUE CROWDFUNDING

WORKSHOP “COHESION POLICY AS A TOOL TO BOOST AND SUPPORT
ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN ISLANDS” – 23/05/2022, EESC - Brussels

Project co-financed by the European
Regional Development Fund

Author: INSULEUR– P1
Irene Mikelis



1. Overview



PROJECT BUDGET

2,4 mio €



PROJECT DURATION

32 months

11.2019- 06.2022



PARTNERSHIP

- 4 clusters
- 3 CF experts
- 2 academia
- 4 regions

*12 Associated Partners

BLUECROWDFUNDING GENERAL OBJECTIVE

IMPROVE INNOVATION CAPACITIES IN BLUE GROWTH SECTOR BY MAINSTREAMING USE OF CROWDFUNDING



2. How is this relevant ?

TARGET GROUP

SMEs

TARGET SECTOR

Blue Economy

TARGET AREA

MED

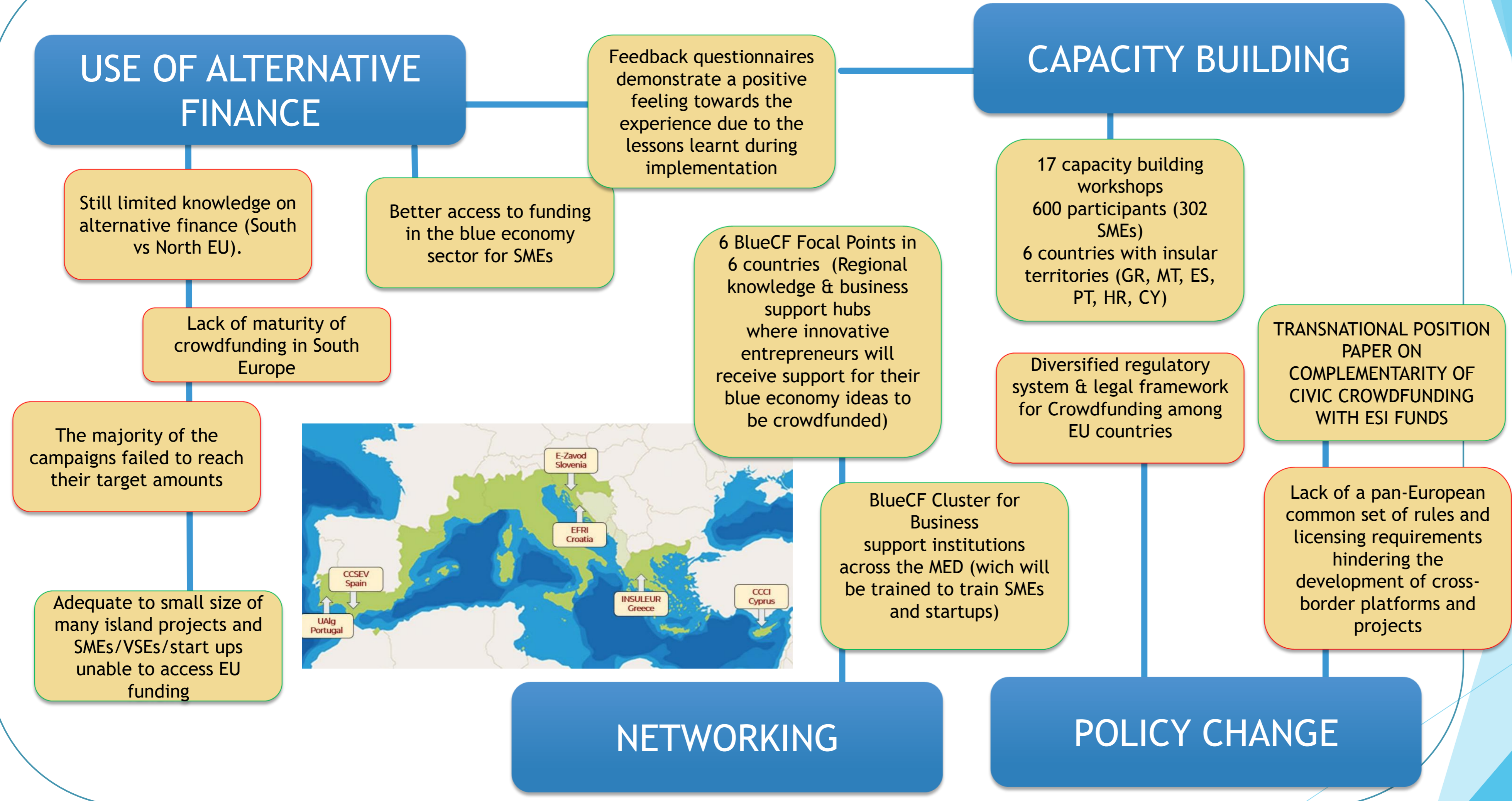


- Sector with vital challenges for islands (climate change, ecosystems, tourism)
- Sector with huge potential / opportunities for islands economies (energy, tourism)

- Close to 200/362* EU inhabited islands (GR, IT, FR, ES, CY, MT, HR)
- Total population close to 12M/20M

*pop >50 inhabitants

3. Achievements & Lessons learned



Thanks!

Irene Mikelis
P1 – INSULEUR
Insuleur.network@gmail.com



@BlueCFInterreg



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/blue-crowdfunding-interreg-med-project>



@BLUEcrowdfunding



<https://blue-crowdfunding.interreg-med.eu/>



European Cohesion Policy and Insular Entrepreneurship: Lessons learned from Med Projects

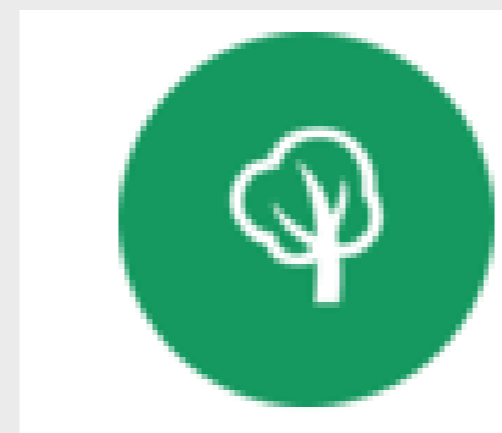


The case of COMPOSE PLUS Project

Marina Maniati, PhD
INSULEUR Expert

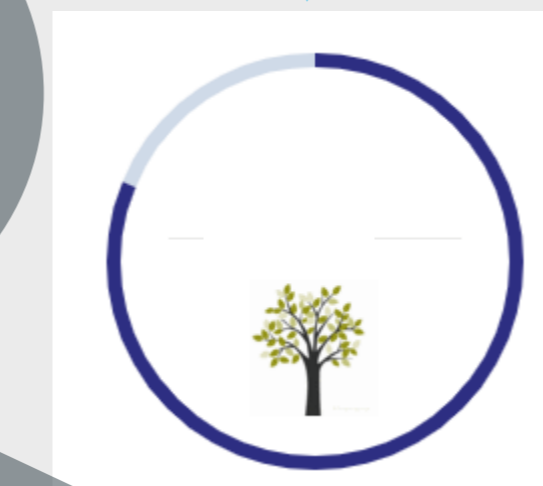


PROJECT INTRODUCTION



PROJECT BUDGET

0,5 mio €



PROJECT DURATION

16 months

03.01.2021- 06.30.22



PARTNERSHIP

7 MED Countries with Disparities

12 highly motivated Partners

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

EU GREEN DEAL

Increase the share of RES in the energy mix of rural & insular areas



GDP per capita in PPS Expressed in relation to the European Union average set to equal 100.

Legend

- ≥ 33 to 62
- ≥ 62 to 64
- ≥ 64 to 76
- ≥ 76 to 89
- ≥ 89 to 94
- ≥ 94 to 97



eurostat



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

EVALUATION OF THE INSTITUTIONAL/ ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS

Fine tuned methodology
Socioeconomic, cultural micro location characteristics



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

For Experts
For Decision Makers
Train the trainers



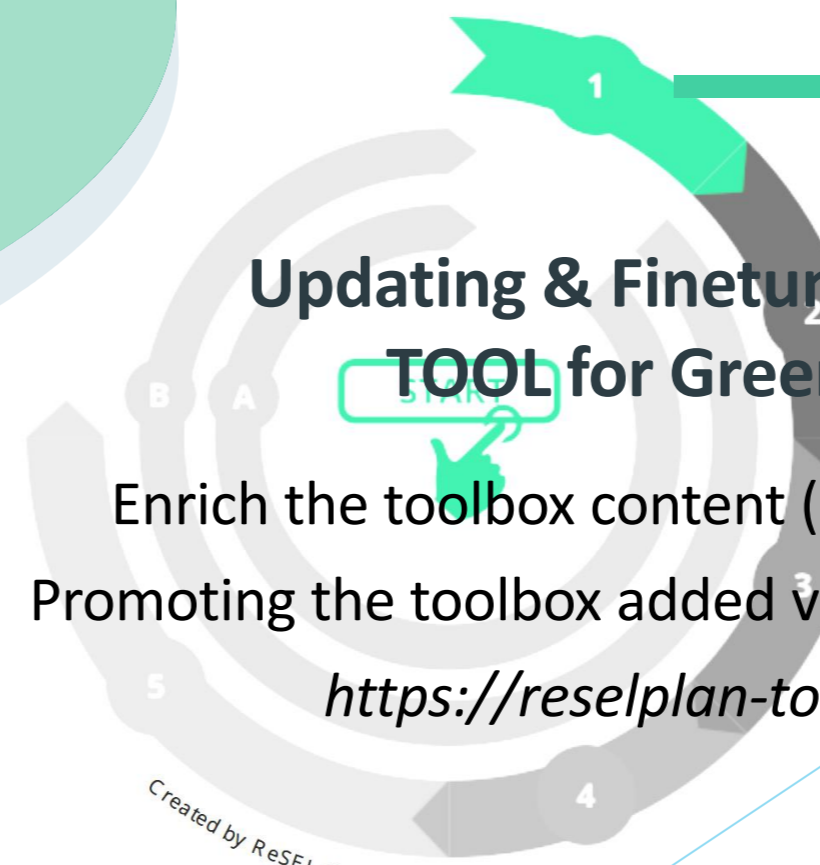
EXCHANGING INFORMATION

General Project Communication
Visibility Actions
*Extending the project impact
Improving sustainability
Justifying the EU added value*



Updating & Finetuning COMPOSE TOOL for Green Deal era

Enrich the toolbox content (by © RESEL TUC)
Promoting the toolbox added value to stakeholders
<https://reselplan-toolbox.eu>



MOUs, 25 territories engaged

Lessons LEARNED

Why an EU Cohesion
Policy
in COMPOSE PLUS
Project?

How COMPOSE PLUS
delivers results to
Europe 2020?

Which are the Thematic
Priorities that connects
COMPOSE PLUS with
Cohesion Policy?

INSULEUR acting as a CATALYST sets an example
on system level on how SMEs can benefit from
COMPOSE approach in terms of using RES and
EE

How COMPOSE PLUS
has supported SMEs?

How COMPOSE PLUS
has improved SMEs
skills?

How COMPOSE PLUS
has contributed to
access to finance
issues?

THE ANSWERS...(1/2)

Smart, Sustainable Growth

COMPOSE PLUS **Toolbox** supporting policymakers and **SMEs** to **mature** projects towards the clean **energy transition**

Disparities

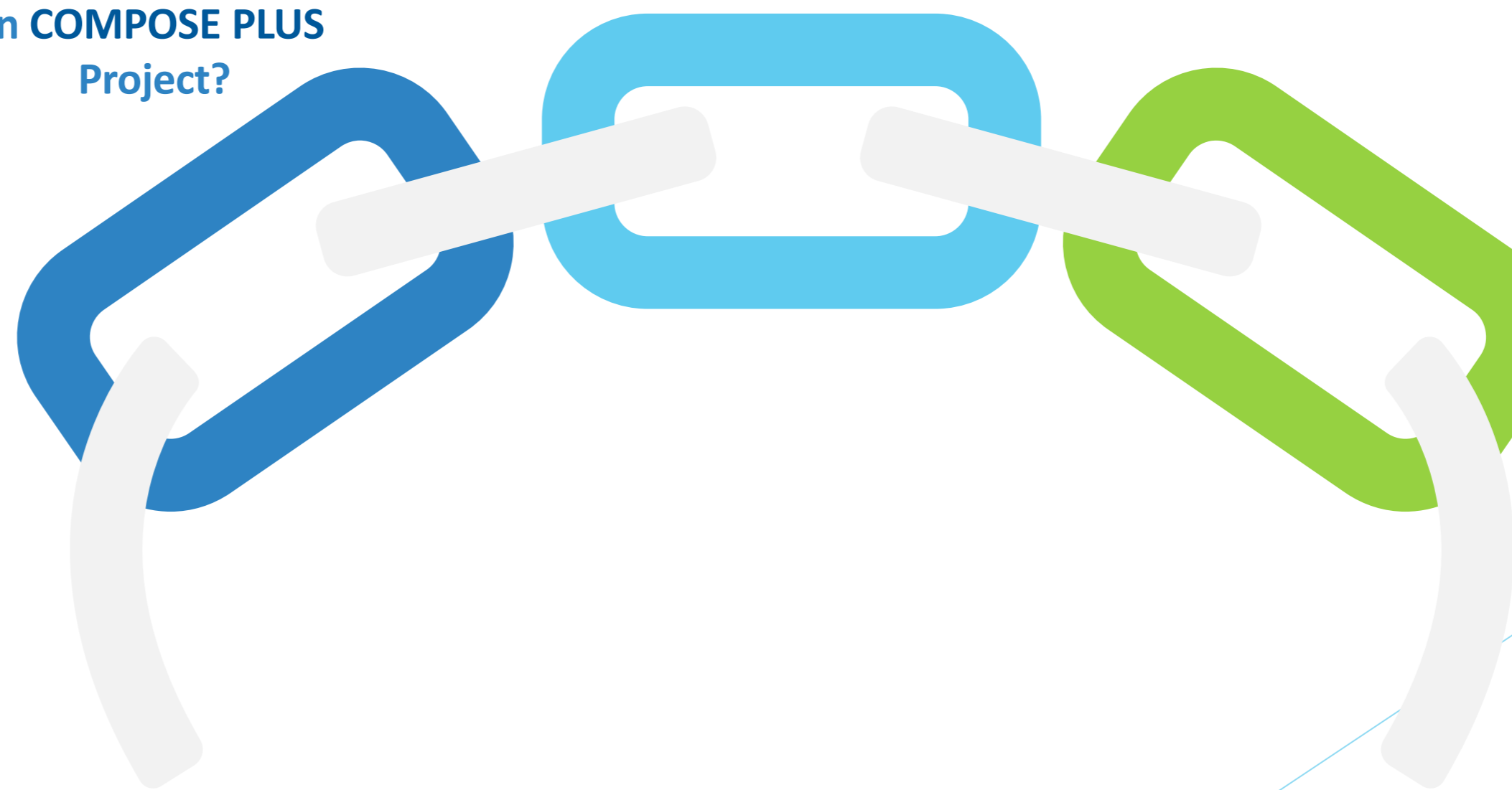
Through COMPOSE PLUS project **disparities** between partners are **reduced**, while economic, social & territorial **development** with respect to energy transition is **balanced** for both Public & **SMEs**

Why an EU Cohesion Policy in COMPOSE PLUS Project?

How COMPOSE PLUS delivers results to Europe 2020?

Which are the Thematic Priorities that connects COMPOSE PLUS with Cohesion Policy?

Concentration on 4 thematic priorities



1

Research and Innovation. **Information & Communication**



2

Technology **Competitiveness** of **SMEs**



3

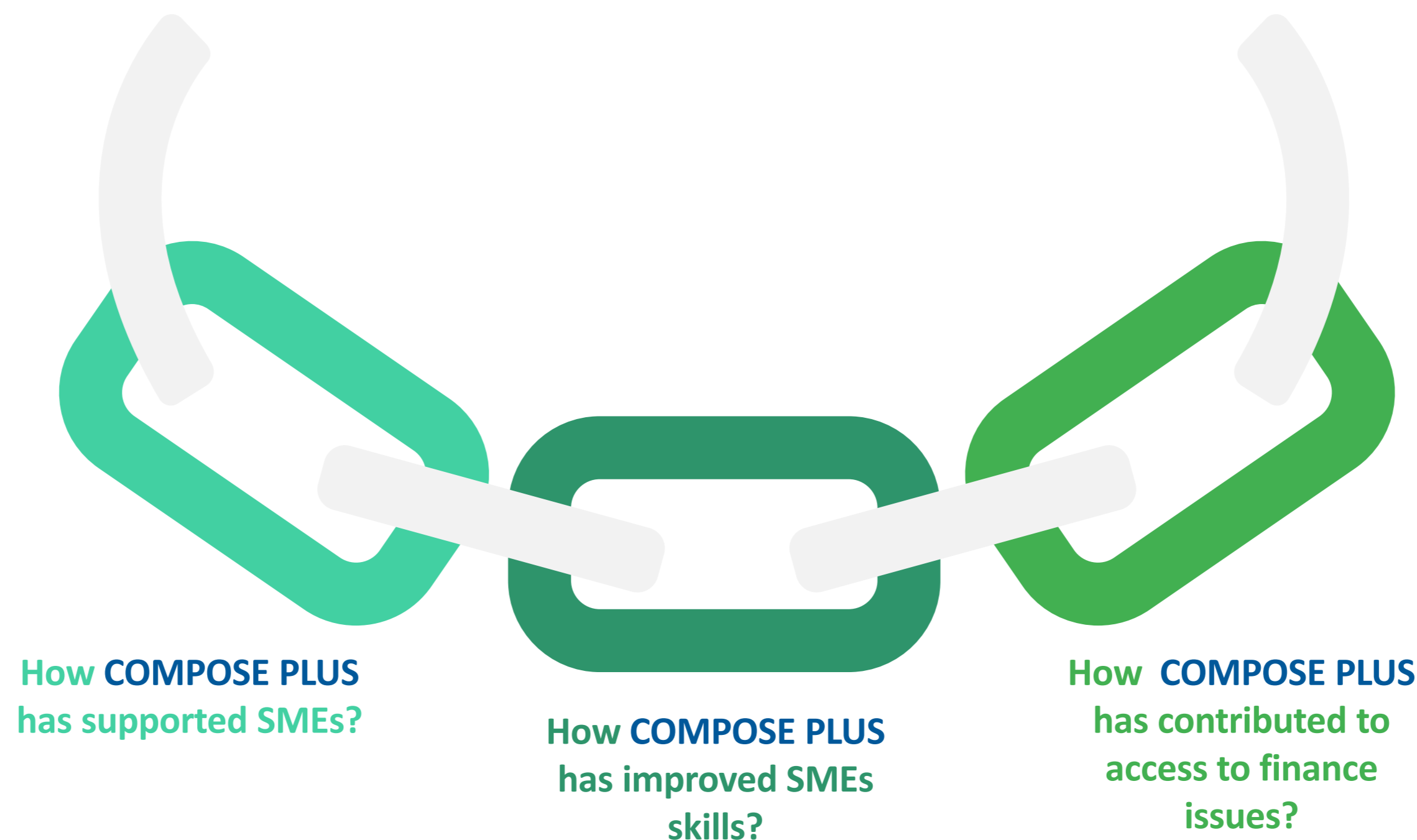
Transition to a low CO₂ emissions economy



4

THE ANSWERS...(2/2)

Helpful frame
COMPOSE TOOL for Green
Transition available to **SMEs**
(mainly depending on expensive
fossil fuel for their energy supply).
Links with research centres



Capacity building

Upon **SMEs needs** & funding
opportunities, thus empowering them for
maturing projects and for **absorption**
of EU and cohesion funds in energy sector

Key challenges

Through **COMPOSE PLUS surveys**, key
challenges were highlighted:
Lack of information on financing
opportunities being the most important
of all topics
Improvements should **simplify the**
territorial financing tools for
island regions and better link them to
islands specificities

INSULEUR AS A CATALYST

2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN TOURISM SECTOR 04.08.2022

Η κα Σταυρούλα Τουρνάκη, Διευθύντρια Ευρωπαϊκών Προγραμμάτων, Εργαστήριο Ανανεώσιμων και Βιώσιμων Ενεργειακών Συστημάτων, Πολυτεχνείου Κρήτης παρουσίασε την πρότυπη ολιστική μεθοδολογική προσέγγιση COMPOSE, εστιάζοντας στον βιώσιμο ενεργειακό σχεδιασμό των ξενοδοχειακών και γενικότερα τουριστικών φορέων, επισημαινώντας ότι έχει δοκιμαστεί σε πάνω από 42 έργα βιώσιμης ενέργειας, διαφορετικής τυπολογίας, σε 11 Μεσογειακές χώρες. Η μεθοδολογία εστιάζει στην αξιοποίηση του τοπικού δυναμικού, στο συμμετοχικό σχεδιασμό και τις συμπεράσεις κοινωνικές, οικονομικές και περιβαλλοντικές παραμέτρους ενός έργου. Τέλος παρουσιάζει την διαδικτυακή εργαλειοθήκη Βιώσιμου Σχεδιασμού (Sustainable Energy Planning Toolbox, www.reseelplan-toolbox.eu) που αναπτύχθηκε από το Εργαστήριο, προκειμένου να υποστηρίξει τους φορείς στην αξιοποίηση του τοπικού δυναμικού, στο συμμετοχικό σχεδιασμό και τις συμπεράσεις κοινωνικές, οικονομικές και περιβαλλοντικές παραμέτρους ενός έργου. Τέλος παρουσιάζει τη διαδικτυακή εργαλειοθήκη Βιώσιμου Σχεδιασμού (Sustainable Energy Planning Toolbox, www.reseelplan-toolbox.eu) που αναπτύχθηκε από το Εργαστήριο, προκειμένου να υποστηρίξει τους φορείς στην αξιοποίηση του τοπικού δυναμικού, στο συμμετοχικό σχεδιασμό και τις συμπεράσεις κοινωνικές, οικονομικές και περιβαλλοντικές παραμέτρους ενός έργου.



Τα θέματα που συζητήθηκαν αφορούσαν τη βιώσιμη ενέργεια, ανάπτυξη και ανταγωνιστικότητα του τουριστικού προϊόντος

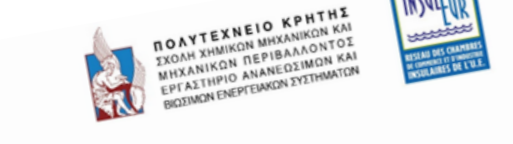
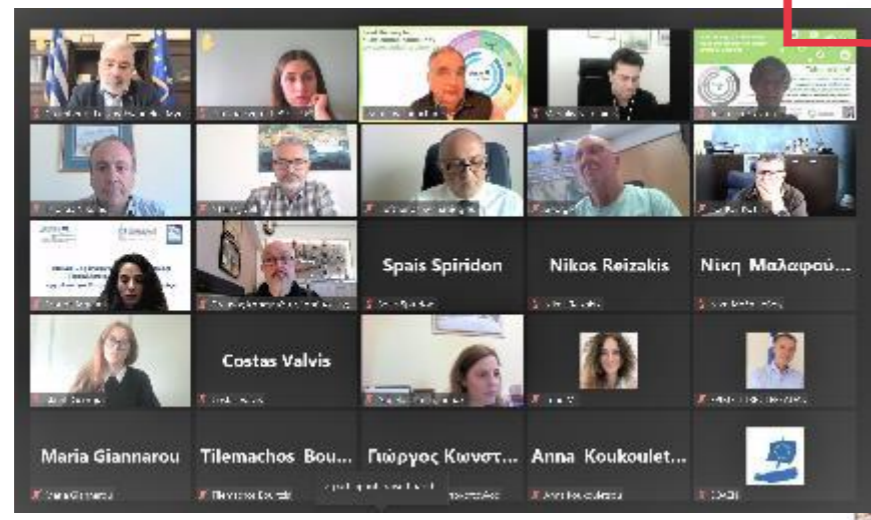
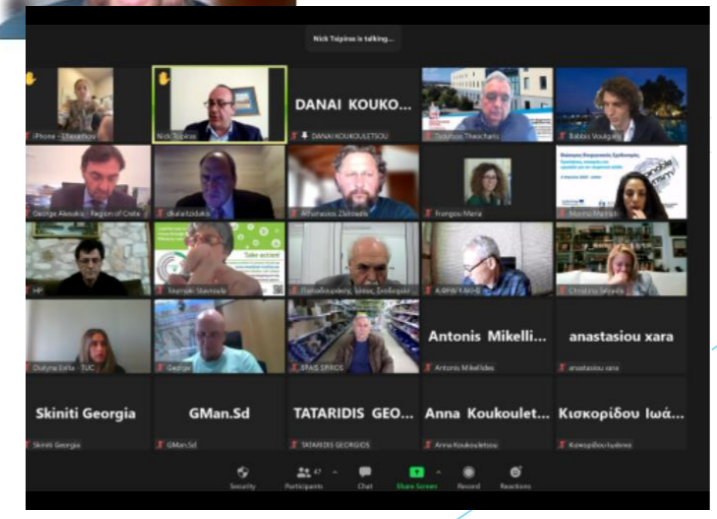


3 ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF INSULEUR MEMBERS, LOCAL COMMUNITIES Malta, 05.27.2022



SAVE THE DATE! 08.04.2022 Βιώσιμος Ενεργειακός Σχεδιασμός: Προκλήσεις, ευκαιρίες και εργαλεία για τον τουριστικό κλάδο

4 ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PORTS June 2022



Δελτίο Τύπου

Τα νησιωτικά επιμελητήρια σχεδιάζουν για την ενεργειακή μετάβαση
Από το Δίκτυο Νησιωτικών Επιμελητηρίων της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης - INSULEUR και το Εργαστήριο Ανανεώσιμων και Βιώσιμων Ενεργειακών Συστημάτων του Πολυτεχνείου Κρήτης ανακοινρώθηκε με ιδιαίτερη επιτυχία το ερευνητικό έργο "Βιώσιμος Ενεργειακός Σχεδιασμός: Προκλήσεις, ευκαιρίες και εργαλεία για Επιμελητηριακούς Φορείς" στο πλαίσιο του έργου Interreg MED COMPOSE PLUS, το οποίο συγχρηματοδοτείται από το Ευρωπαϊκό Ταμείο Περιφερειακής Ανάπτυξης.

Το διαδραστικό εργαστήριο, έλαβε χώρα την Τετάρτη 30.3.2022 με στόχο την ενημέρωση, ενημέρωση και το διάλογο εκπαιδευτικών επιμελητηριακών φορέων και νησιωτικών κοινοτήτων σε θέματα βιώσιμου ενεργειακού σχεδιασμού και ειδικότερα σε:

- Ενεργειακή μετάβαση - Προκλήσεις και ευκαιρίες για τα νησιωτικά επιμελητήρια
- Καλές πρακτικές εφαρμογής μέτρων ενεργειακής απόδοσης κτιρίων
- Πολιτικές και ευρωπαϊκά εργαλεία, Sustainable Energy Planning Toolbox, η οποία Ακολουθείται παρουσίαση της Εργαλειοθήκης Sustainable Energy Planning Toolbox, η οποία χρησιμοποιείται στον αποτελεσματικότερο σχεδιασμό έργων βιώσιμης ενέργειας.

Η έναρξη του εργαστηρίου πραγματοποιήθηκε από τον κ. Ευάγγελο Μιρανιά, Πρόεδρο του Επιμελητηρίου Λέβου και Γ' Αντιπρόεδρο Δικτύου των Νησιωτικών Επιμελητηρίων της ΕΕ (INSULEUR), ο οποίος παρουσίασε τις προκλήσεις και ευκαιρίες των νησιωτικών κοινοτήτων λόγω των γεωγραφικών και κλιματολογικών συνθηκών τους και επεσήμανε ότι η ενεργειακή μετάβαση των νησιών αποτελεί ευκαιρία για τη διεύρυνση των δραστηριοτήτων που σήμερα εξαρτώνται σχεδόν αποκλειστικά από τον βραχύ τουρισμό και την αγορά ακινήτων.

Κατά τη διάρκεια του Εργαστηρίου πραγματοποιήθηκαν οι εξής συζητήσεις:

- Ο Καθηγητής κ. Θεοχάρης Τσούτσας, Διευθυντής του Εργαστηρίου Ανανεώσιμων και Βιώσιμων Ενεργειακών Συστημάτων του Πολυτεχνείου Κρήτης αναφέρθηκε στους στόχους της βιώσιμης ανάπτυξης της Σχολής Χημικών Μηχανικών και Μηχανικών Περιβάλλοντος του Πολυτεχνείου Κρήτης αναφέρθηκε στην ανάγκη της ανάπτυξης της νησιωτικότητας, την ανάγκη για την ενεργειακή απόδοση κτιρίων και παρουσίασε τις προκλήσεις και ευκαιρίες των νησιωτικών κοινοτήτων σε θέματα βιώσιμου ενεργειακού σχεδιασμού και ειδικότερα σε θέματα Ευρωπαϊκής στρατηγικής, καθώς και στις ευκαιρίες για την τοπική κοινωνία και την επιχειρηματικότητα.
- Η κα Μαρία Αρμπιλιά, Μηχανικός Περιβάλλοντος του Εργαστηρίου Ανανεώσιμων και Βιώσιμων Ενεργειακών Συστημάτων του Πολυτεχνείου Κρήτης αναφέρθηκε στην ευρωπαϊκή πολιτική για την ενεργειακή απόδοση κτιρίων και τα κτίρια σχεδόν μηδενικής κατανάλωσης ενέργειας. Παρουσίασε μέτρα κατάλληλα για την αύξηση της ενεργειακής απόδοσης κτιρίων και μελέτες περίπτωσης σε επιβεβαιωμένα κατάλληλα χρηματοδοτικά εργαλεία και σε παραδείγματα ενεργειακής αναβάθμισης μέσω συμβάσεων ενεργειακής απόδοσης (EPC).

Workshops co-organized with RESEL TUC (Activity Leader)

WHAT'S NEXT?

COHESION POLICY 2021-2027



Approach towards islands seems to be consistent with the previous programming periods.

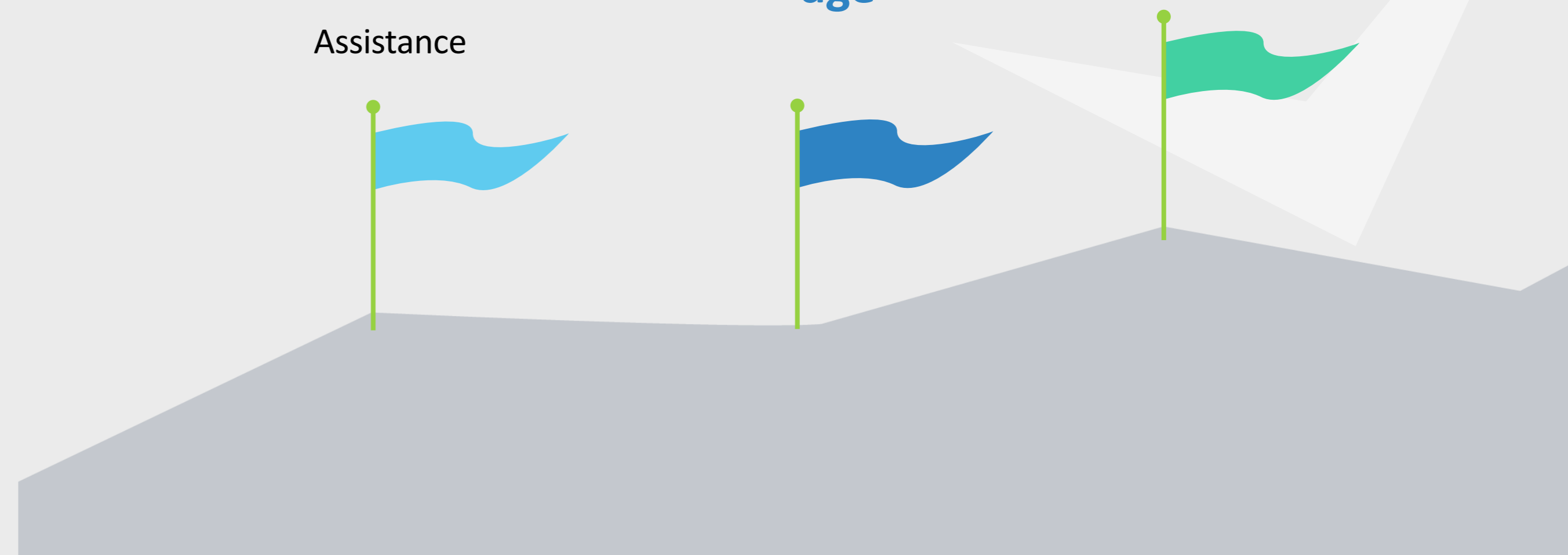
Cohesion Policy pays particular attention to European regions that face severe and permanent geographical or demographic challenges such as mountains, islands and sparsely populated areas.

A European Green Deal

e.g. Clean energy for EU islands: Technical Assistance

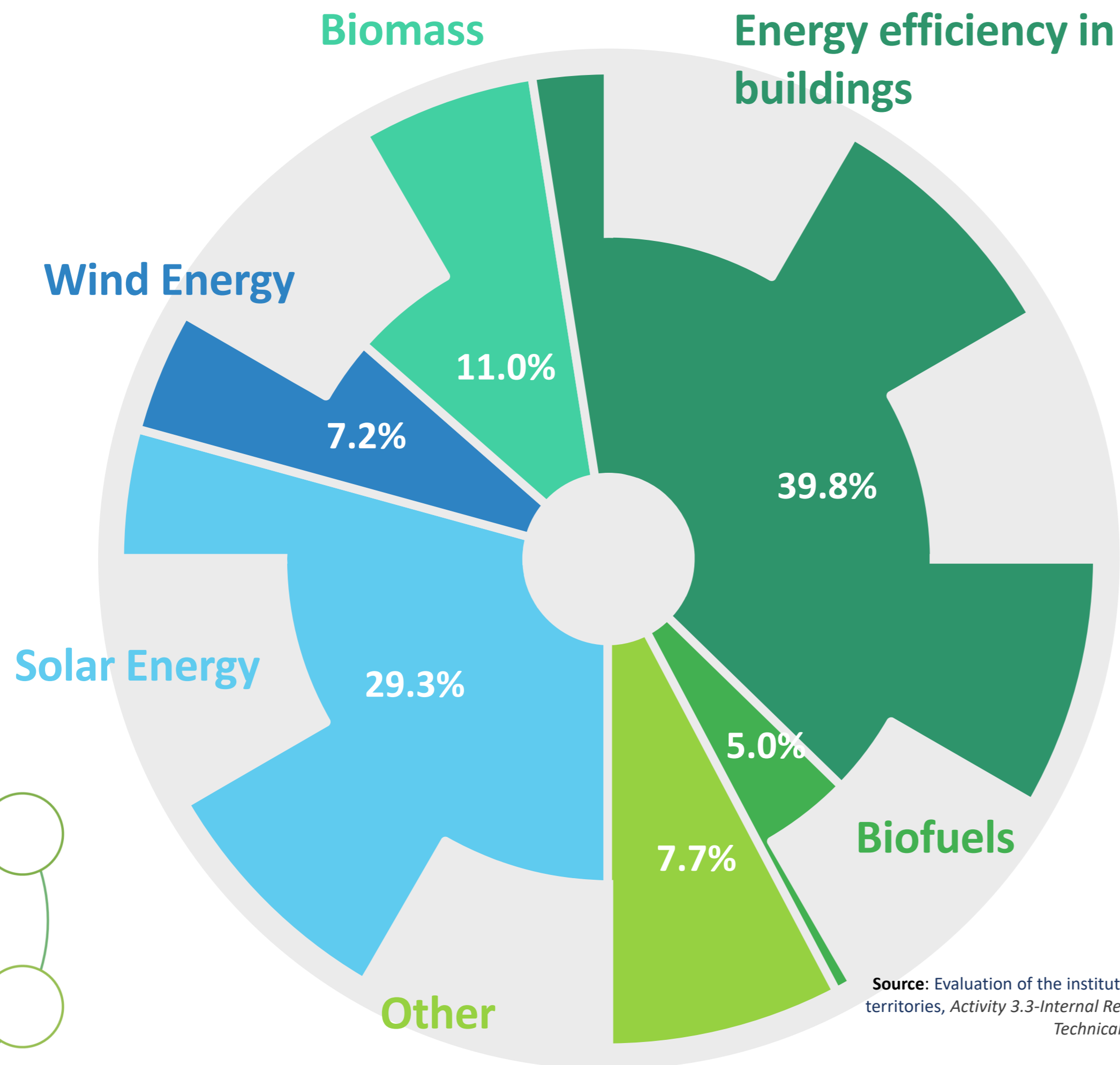
A Europe fit for the digital age

An economy that works for the people

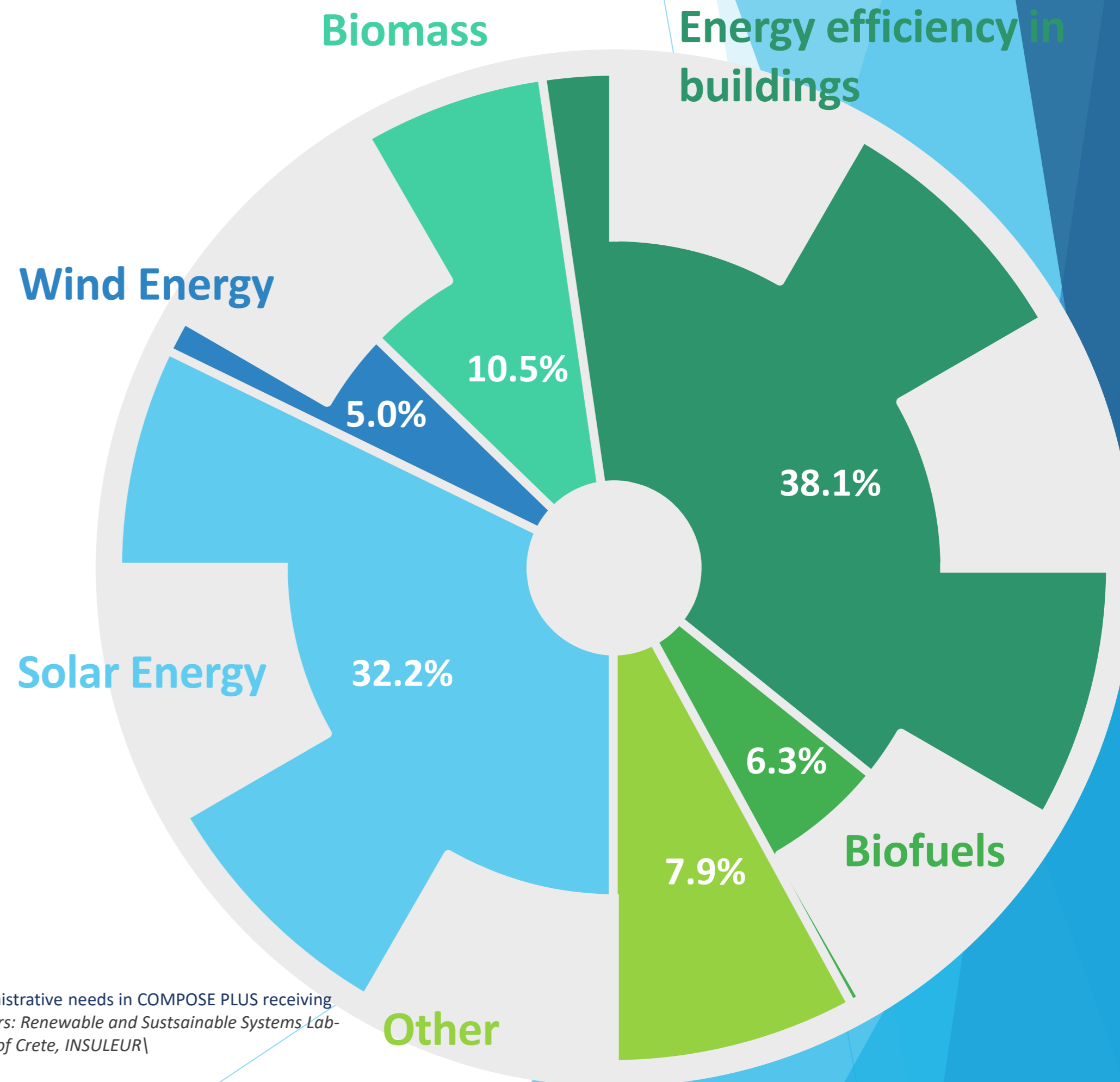


WHAT'S NEXT on Sustainable energy projects?

Types of sustainable energy projects
ALREADY INVOLVED



Types of sustainable energy projects
PLANNED TO BE INVOLVED

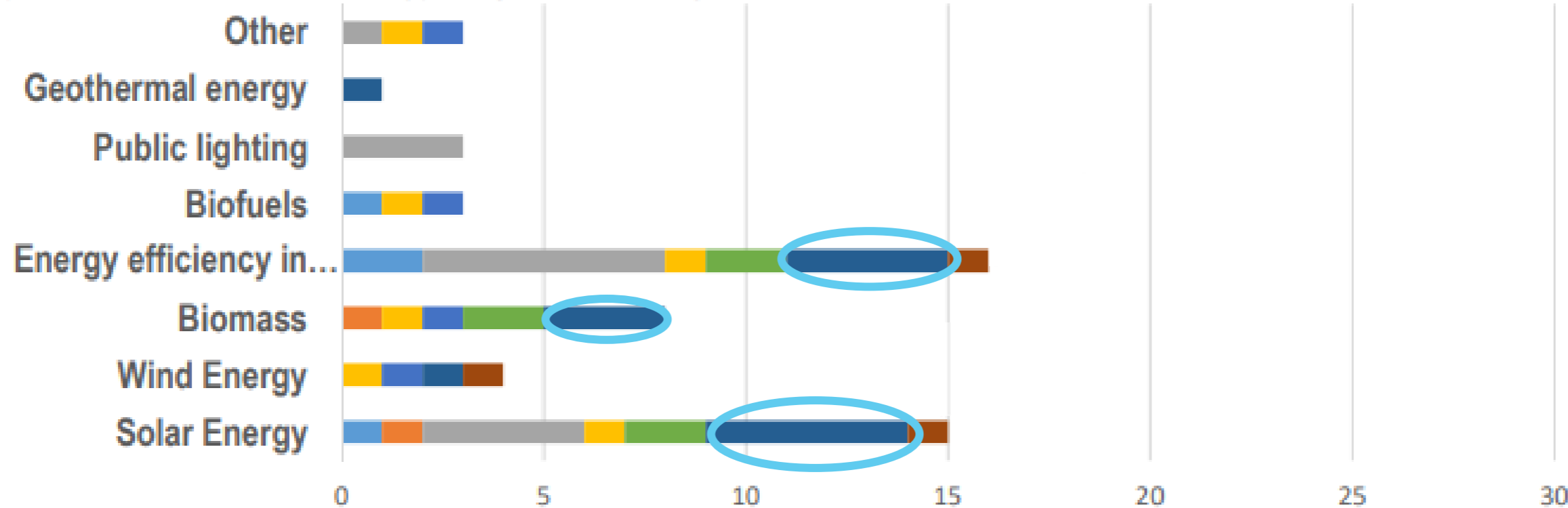


Source: Evaluation of the institutional/administrative needs in COMPOSE PLUS receiving territories, Activity 3.3-Internal Report. Authors: Renewable and Sustainable Systems Lab- Technical University of Crete, INSULEUR\

Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

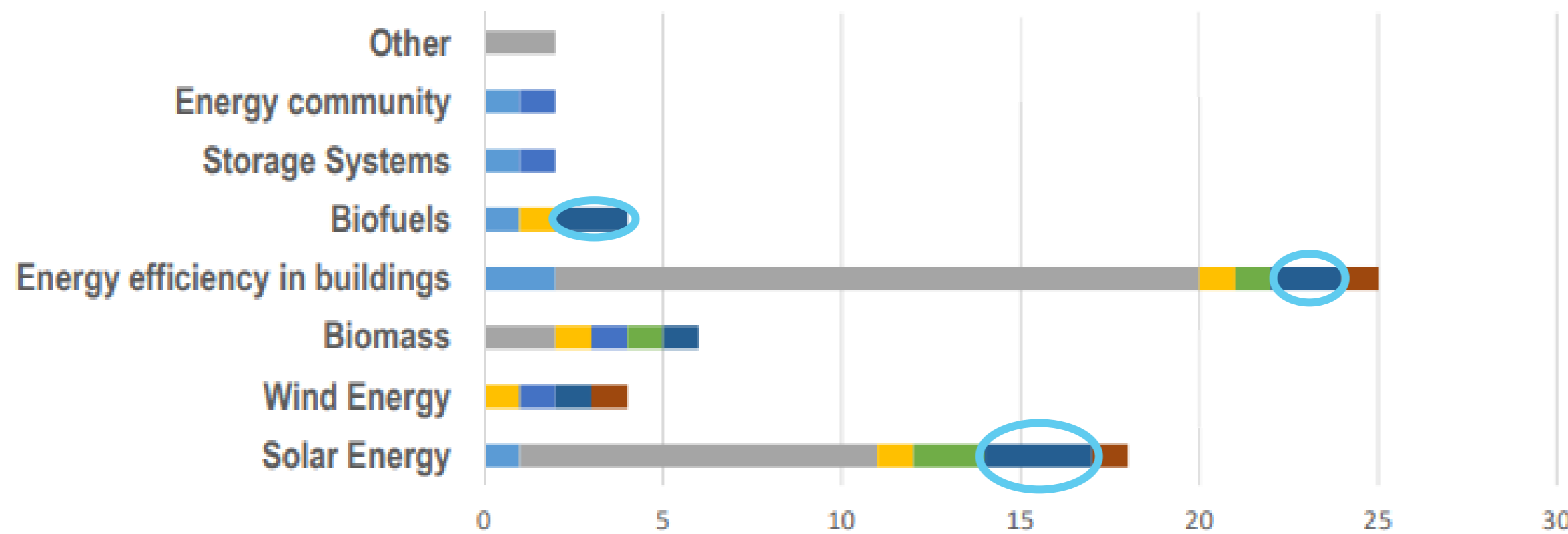
WHAT'S NEXT on Sustainable energy projects?

Types of sustainable energy projects that organisations have been involved



ITALY
45 stakeholders

Types of sustainable energy projects that organisations are planning



- Energy supplier/utility
- Farmer - AgroProducer
- Local authority - Municipality
- NGO or other civil society representative
- Other
- Research Center
- SME ←

Source: Evaluation of the institutional/administrative needs in COMPOSE PLUS receiving territories, Activity 3.3-Internal Report. Authors: Renewable and Sustainable Systems Lab-Technical University of Crete, INSULEUR\

European Cohesion Policy and Insular Entrepreneurship: Lessons learned from Med Projects

The case of COMPOSE PLUS Project



Thank you!

