RESEARCH BRIEF · 2026

Landscape & Coordinators

Who takes part in I3 from Latvia — projects, roles, coordinators and themes

KEY TAKEAWAY

Latvia appears in 11 of 70 I3 projects, but just three Latvian organisations have ever coordinated one — broad presence, thin leadership.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

11 of 70	18	3	8 of 11
PROJECTS WITH LV	LV PARTICIPATIONS	LV COORDINATORS	GREEN / CLEAN-TECH

Latvia turns up in one of every six I3 projects — yet just three Latvian organisations have ever coordinated one. The country touches **11 of the 70 funded I3 projects (15.7%)**, through 18 participations by 15 distinct organisations. The pattern is **broad but shallow**: a frequent consortium member, a rare leader. Of its 18 roles, only **4 are coordinator roles** — held by the Hydrogen Association, the Latvian Technological Centre, and the Green & Smart Technology Cluster — against 14 partner roles. Three organisations are repeat winners; only the Hydrogen Association has led twice. Thematically the footprint is unmistakably green: hydrogen, circular economy and sustainable industry account for **8 of the 11 projects**.

I3 — THE EU'S INTERREGIONAL INNOVATION INVESTMENTS INSTRUMENT (EISMEA / CINEA)

This is the first of three companion briefs on Latvia's place in I3. It maps *who* takes part and who leads; the companion briefs follow the money across strands, and Latvia's consortium partners over time.

PROJECTS AND ROLES

Across the 11 LV-touching projects, Latvian organisations hold **4 coordinator roles and 14 partner roles**. Two projects — H2Value and CERITA — contain a Latvian coordinator *and* additional Latvian partners, which is why the role projects sum to more than 11.

ROLE	PROJECTS	PARTICIPATIONS
Coordinator	4	4
Participant	9	14
Distinct projects	11	18

Table 1. Latvian roles across I3 projects.

The full list, by call year, strand and Latvian role:

PROJECT	CALL	STRAND	LV ROLE	FOCUS / SECTOR
H2Value	2021	INV2a	participant + coordinator	Green hydrogen fuel value chains — Hydrogen / energy
CERITA	2022	CAP2b	coordinator + participant	Circular economy for Riga & Tartu waste facilities — Circular economy
STARRISE	2022	CAP2b	coordinator	Bridging regional S3 strategies & interregional innovation — Innovation capacity
Value4Pack	2022	CAP2b	participant	Resilient European food packaging investment — Agri-food / packaging
GENESIS	2023	CAP2b	coordinator	Greening economy network for sustainable industry — Green industry
IT4EST	2023	INV2a	participant	Interregional tech for forest sustainability — Forestry / green ICT
SustainX	2023	CAP2b	participant	Sustainable digital innovation investment — Digital / green
VRHealthChampions	2023	INV2a	participant	Disrupting European healthcare with VR/XR — Health / XR
EVEN-CLOSER	2024	INV2a	participant	Less-developed regions in circular value chains — Circular economy
IGNITE-LDR	2024	INV1	participant	Innovation, growth & networking for less-developed regions — Innovation capacity
IH-MIE	2024	INV1	participant	Interregional hydrogen mobility initiative — Hydrogen / mobility

Table 2. The 11 Latvia-touching I3 projects. Sector tags are inferred from project titles.

Read together, the two tables tell a consistent story: Latvia is present early and often, but its coordinator roles cluster in the smaller capacity-building projects rather than the large investment ones — a point the funding brief picks up.

THE THREE THAT LEAD

Three Latvian organisations coordinate four I3 projects between them. All four sit in the capacity and less-developed-region strands, not the large investment strand — Latvia leads where the budgets are smaller.

COORDINATING ORGANISATION	PROJECTS	ACRONYMS
Latvijas ūdeņraža Asociācija (Hydrogen Association)	2	CERITA, H2Value
Latvijas Tehnoloģiskais Centrs (Latvian Technological Centre)	1	STARRISE
Zaļo un Viedo Tehnoloģiju Klasteris (Green & Smart Tech Cluster)	1	GENESIS

Table 3. Latvia's I3 coordinators. The Hydrogen Association is the only two-time leader.

REPEAT WINNERS AND THEMES

Three of the 15 Latvian entities appear in two I3 projects each; the other 12 appear once. Only the Hydrogen Association has coordinated more than once — the thin top of an already thin pool of leaders.

ORGANISATION	PROJECTS	AS COORDINATOR	ACRONYMS
Latvijas ūdeņraža Asociācija	2	2	H2Value, CERITA
Latvijas Tehnoloģiskais Centrs	2	1	STARRISE, SustainX
Zaļo un Viedo Tehnoloģiju Klasteris	2	1	GENESIS, IH-MIE

Table 4. Latvia's I3 repeat-winner organisations.

Group the 11 projects by theme and the concentration is just as clear — Latvia's I3 presence is, in substance, a green-economy presence:

THEME	PROJECTS	NOTE
Green hydrogen / energy	H2Value, IH-MIE	Largest single funding theme, anchored by the Hydrogen Association.
Circular economy / green industry	CERITA, GENESIS, EVEN-CLOSER, Value4Pack	Broadest theme by project count.
Digital / green ICT	SustainX, IT4EST	Digital-for-sustainability work.
Innovation capacity / S3	STARRISE, IGNITE-LDR	Capacity-building and smart-specialisation governance.
Health / XR	VRHealthChampions	A single project; Latvian university and XR-firm territory.

Table 5. Inferred thematic clusters of Latvia's I3 participation.

> **The bottom line.** Access to I3 is not Latvia's problem — eleven projects in four years settles that. The harder question is leadership. Moving even one or two of the repeat partners into the coordinator's chair would do more for Latvia's standing in the instrument than another handful of minor participations.

METHOD & SOURCES

Method. The figures count Latvian organisations' roles and EC contributions across the 70 funded I3 projects, with each organisation's funding taken at the participation level — the share that actually reaches that entity. Strands and call years are read from each project's public I3 reference code (for example *I3-2024-INV2a*). Two limits are worth stating plainly: public project records list only awarded projects, so a Latvian success-rate against the EU average cannot be computed here; and the records carry no sector field, so the thematic groupings are inferred from project titles, not an official taxonomy.

Sources. EISMEA / CINEA award records for the Interregional Innovation Investments instrument (I3), accessed through CORDIS, the European Commission's public research-projects database. Cross-checked against the *I3 Instrument Observatory 2025* report (≈10 Latvia-touching, ≈4 Latvia-coordinated projects). Figures current to mid-2026 and will rise as later I3 calls are recorded.

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