

**Interreg
Europe**



European Union | European Regional Development Fund

European Value Chains (EVCs)

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1. S34GROWTH

- Based on the **Vanguard Initiative** : pioneering a new approach to European industry-led interregional cooperation since late 2013.
- **10 European regions from 8 countries.**
- S34Growth's main objective is to develop and improve existing regional policy instruments to facilitate interregional collaboration, which in turn will support the renewal of Europe's industry and competitiveness.
- S34Growth focuses on industrial innovation related interregional collaboration.



2. Interregional Voucher Scheme

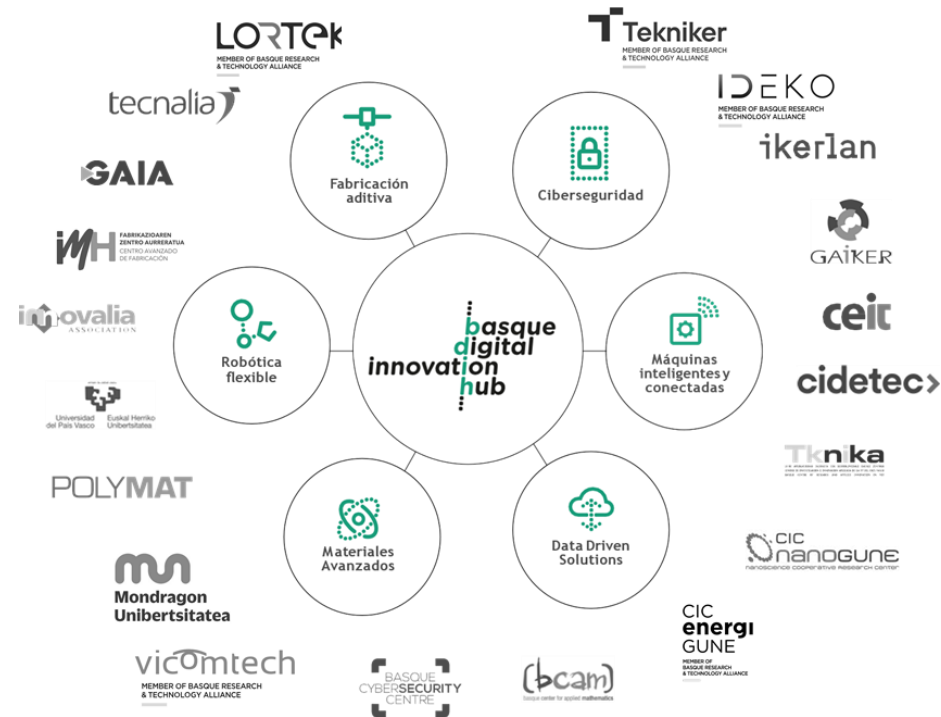


The **Basque Digital Innovation Hub (BDIH)** it is an initiative that responds to the Basque smart specialization strategy RIS3 in advanced manufacturing, Basque Industry 4.0, to support the business fabric in the experimentation of digital innovations.

The aim of this initiative is to provide industrial enterprises, especially SMEs, with the technological capabilities needed to meet the challenges of industry 4.0.

It consists of a digitally-linked network of R+D infrastructures, pilot plants and specialized know-how in different areas of advanced manufacturing.

It is internationally connected to other DIH through an Interregional Voucher Scheme



2. Interregional Voucher Scheme



A networked DIH, such as the Basque Digital Innovation Hub (BDIH) promotes EVCs (European Value Chains) by:

- Providing a marketplace that facilitates collaboration and networking between relevant stakeholders, matching firms with customers and, in absence of local suppliers, provide European connections. DIHs also helping companies by bringing them into contact with other companies of their value chain, with innovators, or early clients that want to test solutions.
- Being the entry point of the regional innovation ecosystem related to digitalisation (access to key actors & market intelligence on business opportunities and technological developments).
- Providing opportunities for actors to meet and initiate collaborative projects which can turn into innovations that create new value chains.

2. Interregional Voucher Scheme



The main characteristics of the **Interregional Voucher Scheme** of the Basque Government are:

- **Economic assistance to Basque SMEs** to use the capabilities of the BDIH and some specific European DIHs that, have been considered of strategic interest for Basque companies.
- The program will be aimed at the **development of an action plan to incorporate 4.0 technologies**, development of proofs of concept and testing of prototypes in the fields of additive manufacturing, flexible robotics, intelligent and connected machines, advanced materials and cybersecurity.
- The innovation voucher program will finance **80% of the total cost of the service** up to a maximum of € 15,000 in the case of a European DIH or € 12,000 in the case of the BDIH.



3. Recommendations

1. **Engage with industry and stakeholders** on a continuous basis to assess their challenges & opportunities. Public – Private collaboration is key.
2. **Join a network/platform** of like-minded regions (Vanguard Initiative, S3 Thematic Platforms)
3. **Map & Match** : Analyse the complementarities of the regional capabilities & find the perfect match
4. **Start with small projects**, build trust and then scale up
5. **Manage expectations**: It's policy experimentation!