

ECIV Open Call 1 – FSTP Management Report (public transparency report)

This report provides a comprehensive overview of ECIV first Open Call, including:

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1. Overview of ECIV Open Call 1

Call title: ECIV Open Call 1

Project: European Circular Innovation Valley (ECIV): the European “dance floor” for circular regions

Opening date: 22 December 2025

Closing date: 16 March 2026 12:00 (Brussels time)

Total funding available: 9 129 770,00 €

Deadline model: single-stage

Objectives

The general objective of ECIV first Open Call (OC1) is to **support interregional innovation projects of circular economy** (Technology Readiness Level or equivalent in the range 6-8), based on the specific objectives, priorities and topics identified in different value chains and industrial sectors of the ECIV regions.

Scope

ECIV funding territories include:

1. Comunidad Foral de Navarra (Spain)
2. Noord Nederland comprising Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe (Netherlands)
3. Norra Mellansverige comprising regions of Värmland, Dalarna and Gävleborg (Sweden)
4. Normandie (France)
5. Scotland (United Kingdom)

2. Governance and roles

The selection process was implemented in accordance with principles of transparency, equal treatment, impartiality, and confidentiality.

Bodies involved

- CAB (Call Advisory Board) Provides advice on refining the themes and scope of the call
- CSC (Call Steering Committee) Monitors actions taken by the CS, makes decisions regarding the calls
- CS (Call Secretariat) Helpdesk for applicants, manage and implement the evaluation process and execution of the call
- PRP (Peer Review Panel) Independent experts evaluate project proposals

Conflict of interest and confidentiality management

All evaluators and decision-makers:

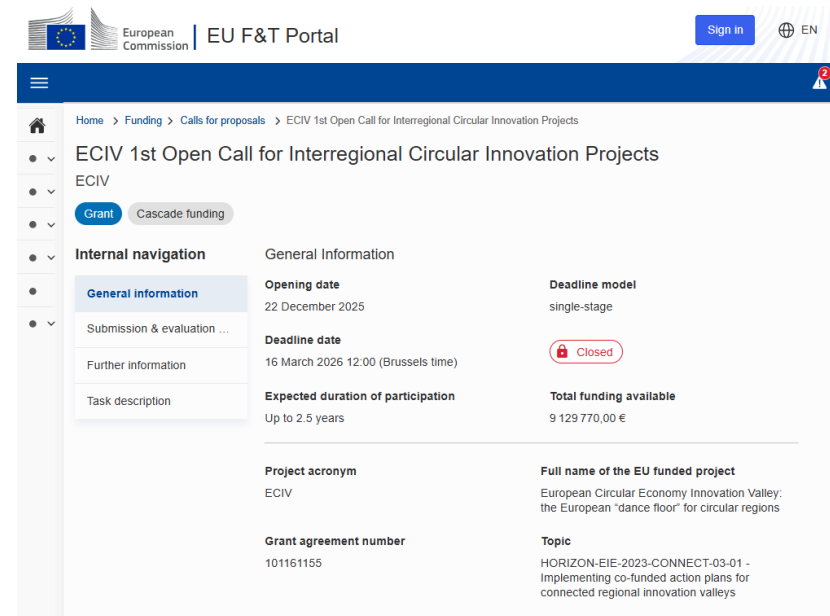
- Signed declarations of No Conflict of interest and Non-Disclosure Agreements
- Were screened before assignment of proposals
- Were excluded in case of potential conflict

2. Description of the selection process

The selection process followed a 9-step approach:

Step 1 – Call publication

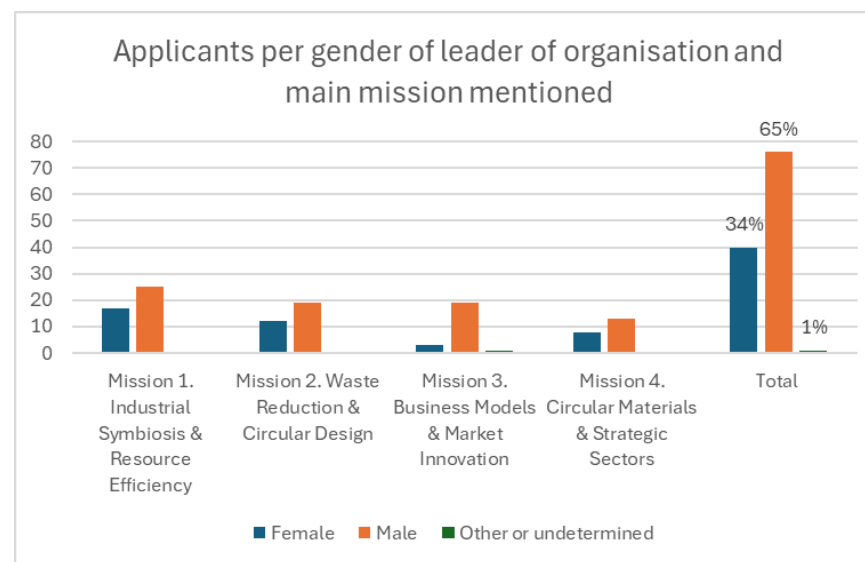
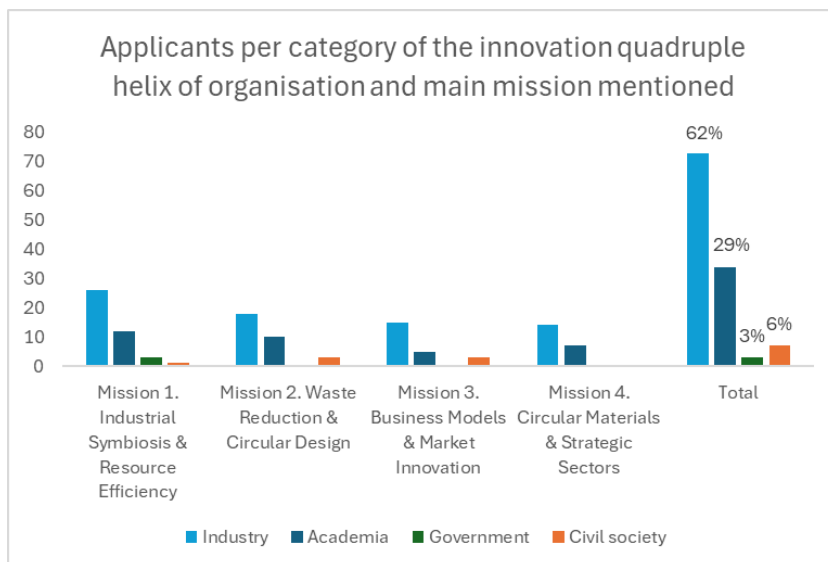
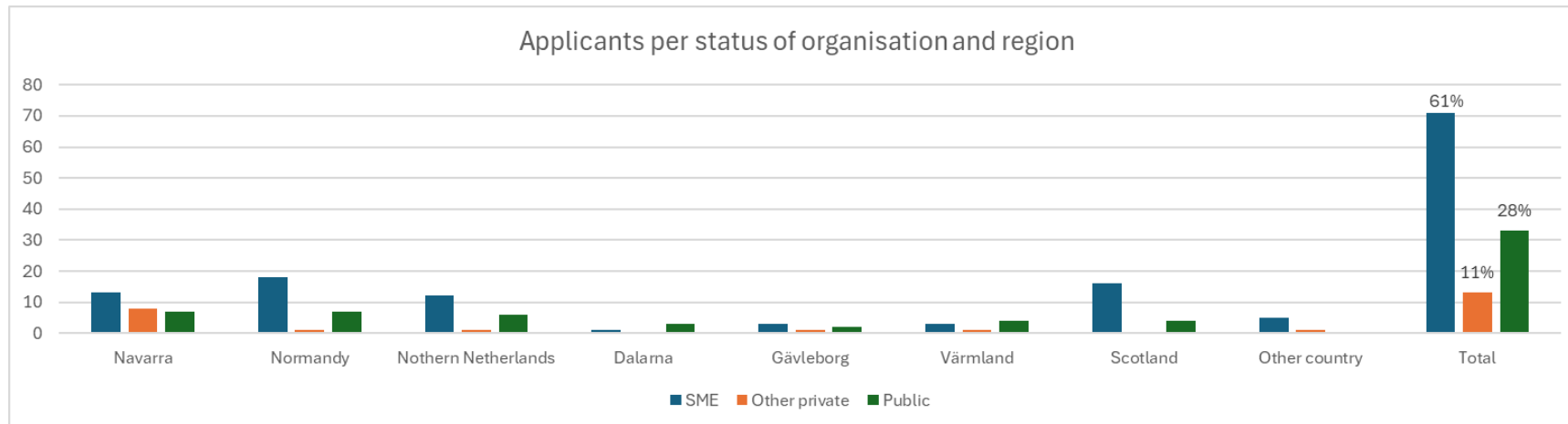
- Publication of guidelines for applicants including the text of the call and evaluation criteria, template for the subgrantee agreement, call leaflet, application form for applicants, Q&A section and online microsite at the project website and platform
- Public access ensured via [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) and the [ECIV website](#) between 23/12/2025 and 16/03/2026
- Matchmaking platform
<https://www.b2match.com/e/eciv-matchmaking>
- Number of registrations on the matchmaking platform: 508



Step 2 – Proposal submission

- Submission via submission, evaluation, selection and monitoring platform <http://platform.eciv.eu>
- Number of project proposals received: 21
- Number of applicants: 117
- Total funding requested: 24 058 740,36€

Focus on the applicant organisations¹:



¹ Data not confirmed, only for statistics.

Step 3 – Interregional eligibility check

- Administrative and formal verification of consortia and beneficiaries' rules at interregional level.
- Eligible proposals after interregional eligibility check: 18 / 21

Step 4 – Evaluation of the applications

- Call for experts: 14 experts selected / 223 applications (list in annex)
- Each project proposal evaluated by 3 independent experts: 2 external experts, 1 Call Secretariat expert
- Evaluation based on predefined criteria: impact, excellence, quality and efficiency of implementation

Step 5 – Ranking and Peer Review Panel

- Scores consolidated, weight 30% for each external evaluator and 40% for Call Secretariat
- Ranking list established based on total score
- Passed the threshold of 3 on 5 points to get project approval: 16 / 18

Step 6 – Regional eligibility checks

- Administrative and formal verification of funding regions' rules
- Eligible proposals after regional eligibility checks: 12 / 16

Step 7 – Final selection

- Confrontation with regional budgets availability and eligibility checks
- Validation by the Call Steering Committee
- Ethical clearance by the Call Secretariat
- Approval for funding based on eligibility, ranking, available budget: 4 / 18

Step 8 – Political commitments

- Regional commitments for funding: 4 755 461,18 € / 9 129 770,00€

Step 9 – Notifications

- Announcement of the selection process outcomes to project leaders with summary of evaluation reports
- Invitation to GA to project leaders from approved project proposals
- Publication of transparency report with communication on OC 1 and coming ECIV Calls on website and social media

3. Evaluation methodology and results

Criteria and scoring

Quality of each proposal was evaluated based on:

Criterion	Description	Score	Weight
Impact	Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts.	0–5	40%
Excellence	Clarity, pertinence, and ambition of the project's objectives, and how well it advances the state of the art.	0–5	30%
Quality and efficiency of implementation	Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, risk assessment, and effort.	0–5	30%

Threshold

- Minimum threshold per criterion: **3/5**
- Proposals below threshold were **not selected** (2 proposals on 21)
- Secure evaluation platform

4. Statistics and results

Overview

- Total proposals submitted: **21**
- Eligible proposals at interregional level: **18**
- Evaluated proposals: **18**
- Approved proposals: **16**
- Eligible proposals at regional level: **12**
- Approved projects for funding: **4**

Success rate: 19

Budget allocation

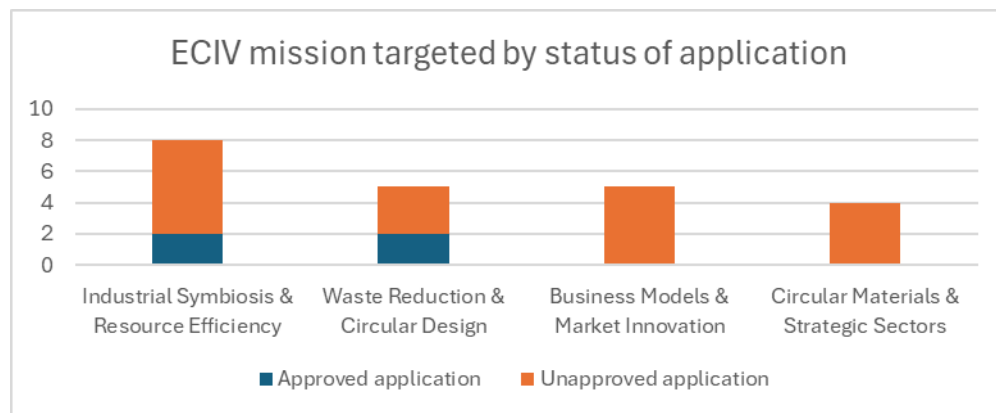
- Total available funding: **9 129 770,00 €**
- Total allocated funding: **4 755 461,18 €**
- Average funding per project: **1 236 392,42 €**

Available funding spent: **52%**

Additional insights

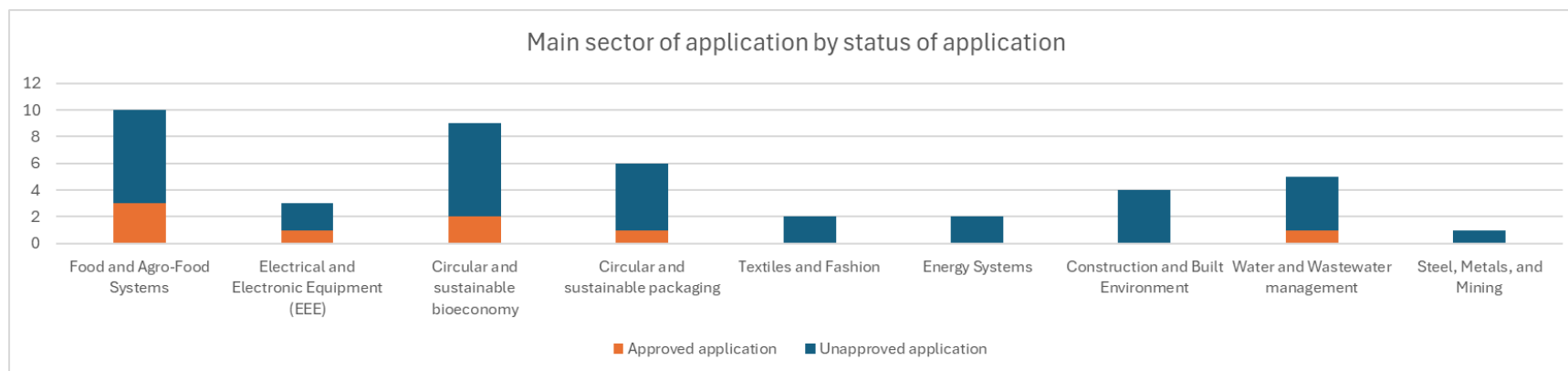
- Distribution of ECIV missions targeted (n° approved applications / n° applications)

Industrial Symbiosis & Resource Efficiency	Waste Reduction & Circular Design	Business Models & Market Innovation	Circular Materials & Strategic Sectors
2 / 8	2 / 5	0 / 5	0 / 4



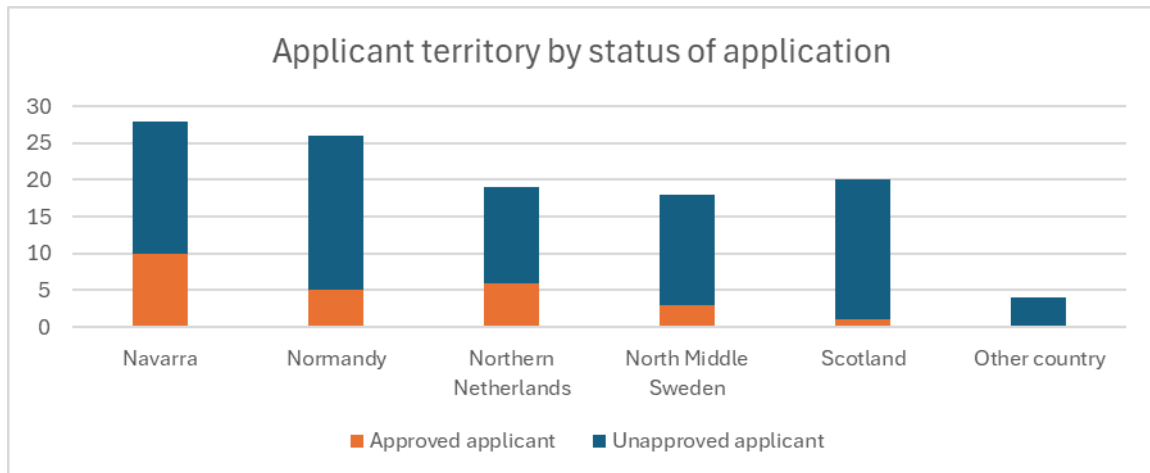
- Main sectors of funded projects (n° approved applications / n° applications)

Food and Agro-Food Systems	3 / 10
Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE)	1 / 3
Circular and sustainable bioeconomy	2 / 9
Circular and sustainable packaging	1 / 6
Textiles and Fashion	0 / 2
Energy Systems	0 / 2
Construction and Built Environment	0 / 4
Water and Wastewater management	1 / 5
Steel, Metals, and Mining	0 / 1



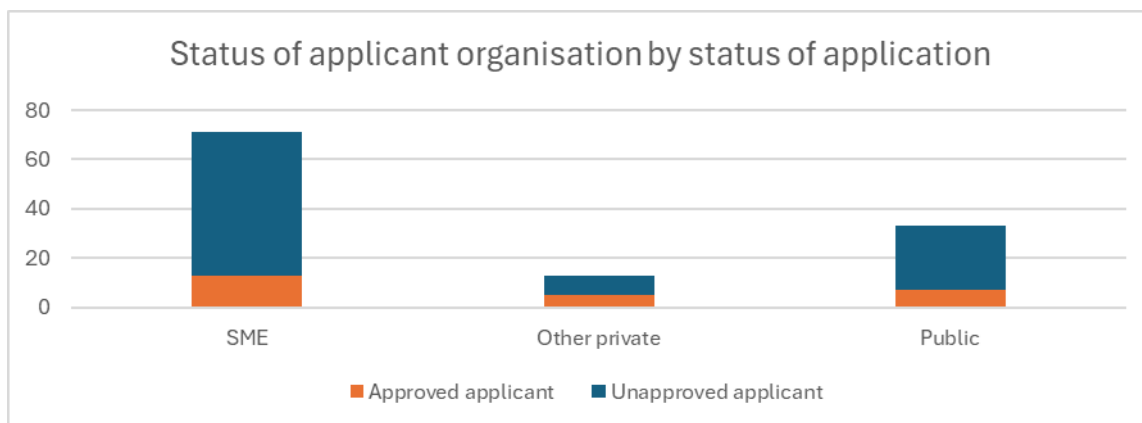
- Distribution of applicants per country (n° approved applicants / n° applicants)

Navarra	Normandy	Northern Netherlands	North Middle Sweden	Scotland	Other country
10 / 28	5 / 26	6 / 19	3 / 18	1 / 20	0 / 4



- Distribution of applicants per status of organisation (n° approved applicants / n° applicants) ²

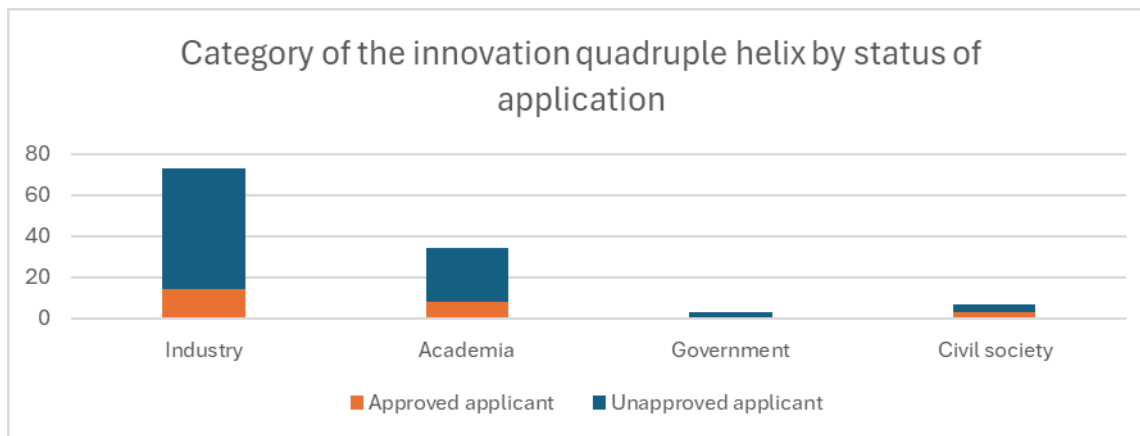
SME	Other private	Public
13 / 71	5 / 13	7 / 33



² Data not confirmed, only for statistics.

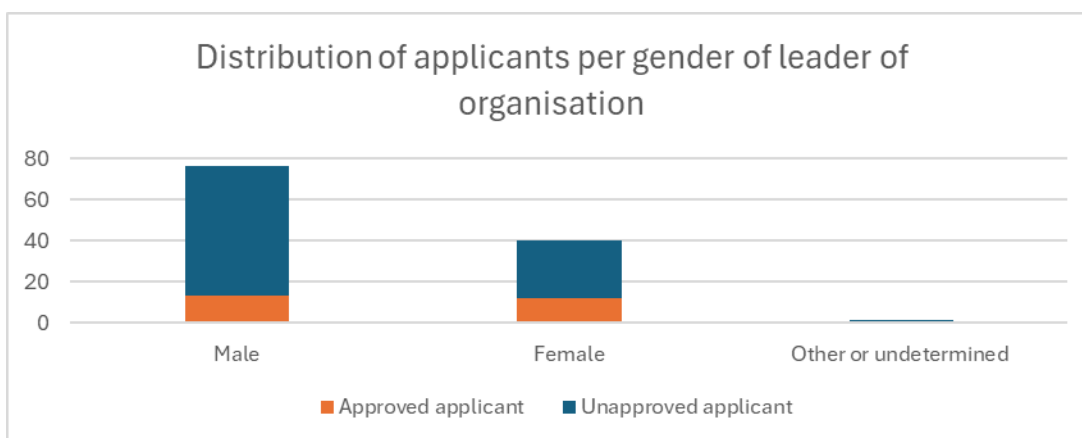
- Distribution of applicants per category of the innovation quadruple helix (n° approved applicants / n° applicants)

Industry	Academia	Government	Civil society
14 / 73	8 / 34	0 / 3	3 / 7



- Distribution of applicants per gender of leader of organisation (n° approved applicants / n° applicants)

Male	Female	Other or undetermined
13 / 76	12 / 40	0/1



5. Transparency and fairness measures

The call ensured full compliance with EU requirements:

Transparency

- Evaluation criteria published in advance
- Clear documentation of procedures
- Communication to all applicants

Equal treatment

- Same information and deadlines for all
- Standardised evaluation process

Confidentiality

- Secure data handling
- Restricted access to proposals

Traceability

- All steps documented
- Evaluation records stored and auditable

5. Results validation

The final list of selected projects was:

- Reviewed and approved by the **Call Steering Committee**
- Confirmed against:
 - Ranking results
 - Budget constraints
 - Eligibility compliance
 - Ethical clearance
 - Transparency report

6. Follow-up and implementation

Following actions complement the selection process:

- Launch of survey to capture additional feedback, including from non-applicants – 24 answers
- Establishment of monitoring and reporting mechanisms – as in model grant agreement
- Release of Grant Agreements at regional level to be signed with approved beneficiaries
- Release of Grant Agreements at interregional level to be signed with approved projects lead beneficiaries
- Allocation of funding according to European, ECIV Open Call 1 and regional rules

7. Lessons Learned

Feedback from applicants or beneficiaries

- Strong engagement driven by a clear mission-oriented approach focused on circular innovation and societal impact
- Positive reception of thematic submission groups, enabling alignment with collective dynamics
- Matchmaking platform appreciated for partner search and consortium building
- Application form perceived as simple and accessible, lowering barriers to participation

Challenges encountered

- Limited time for consortium building, impacting proposal maturity
- Complex regional eligibility rules (state aid constraints, SME status, calculation of indirect costs)
- Lack of possibility for details in application form for budget items, roles in consortia, dissemination actions

Improvements for future calls

- Strategic alignment
 - Reinforce coordination with stakeholders (dance floor, ecosystem building)
 - Encourage projects emerging from structured collaboration processes
- Application process
 - Strengthen matchmaking: earlier profile validation, better notifications, complementary human facilitation.
 - Simplify and clarify Guide for Applicants (plain language, FALC approach)

- Improve application form with: detailed budget breakdown, roles and responsibilities, dissemination & exploitation plans, state of the art / TRL, EU added value justification, regional impact assessment, gender ratio and SME ratio
- Call design & rules
 - Adjust timeline: earlier opening, longer submission period (~3 months)
 - Clarify partnership requirements

8. Conclusion

This report outlines:

- Transparency thanks to a full description of the call lifecycle
- Call outcomes throughout the evaluation and selection process
- Statistics of ECIV Open Call 1:
 - 21 proposals submitted by 117 organisations
 - 4 projects approved for funding involving 25 organisations
 - 4 774 302,29 € allocated funding of 9 129 770 € available
- Ways of improvement via lessons learned

9. Annexes

- ECIV OC1 list of External Evaluators