

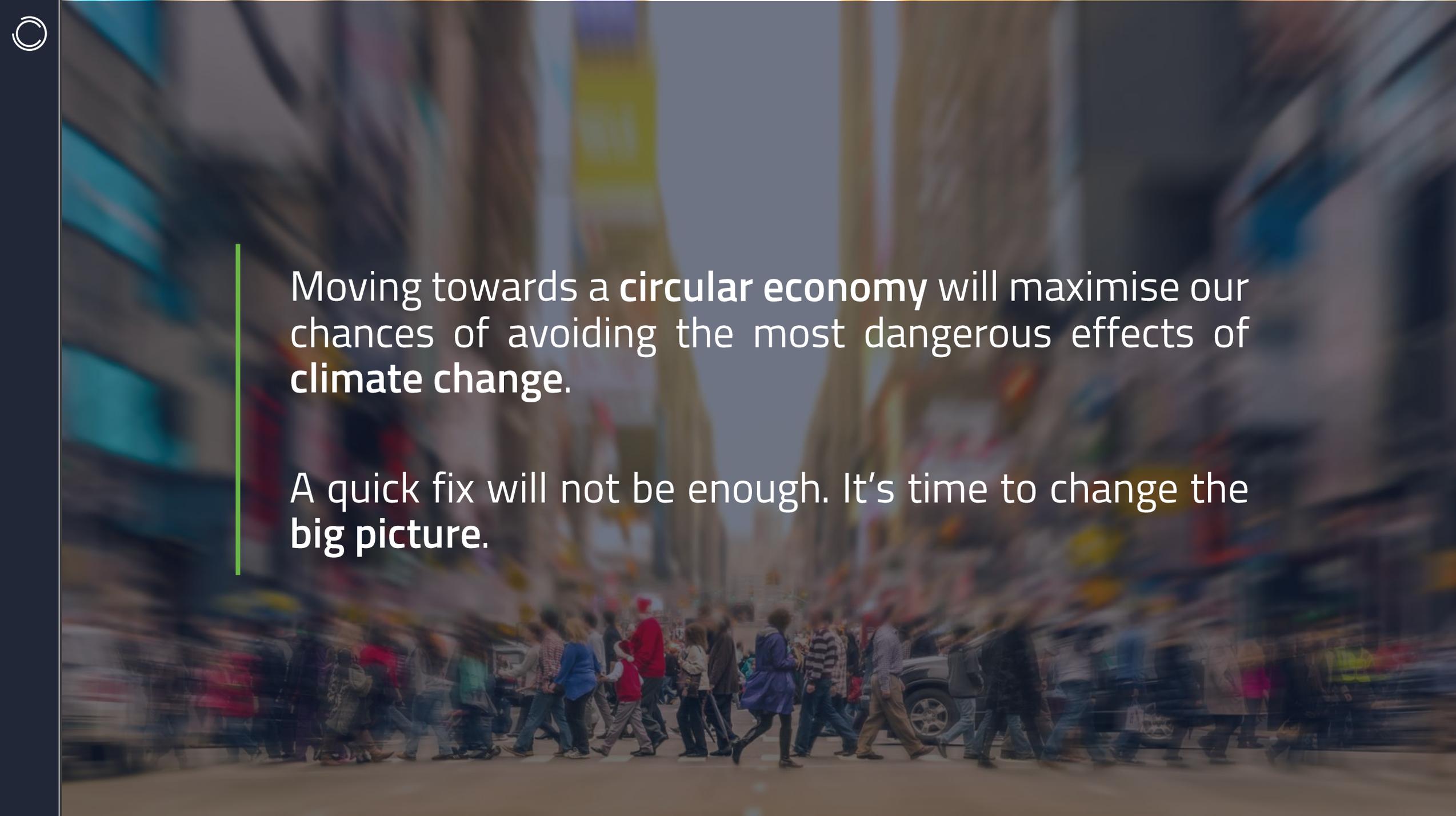


Accelerating the transition to circular, regenerative economies in Southern and Central Eastern Europe regions

Annalisa Spalazzi
EIT Climate-KIC Regional Innovation Scheme programme manager



EIT Climate-KIC is supported by the
EIT, a body of the European Union



Moving towards a **circular economy** will maximise our chances of avoiding the most dangerous effects of **climate change**.

A quick fix will not be enough. It's time to change the **big picture**.

A circular economy development path in Europe could result in a reduction of primary material consumption of...

32%

by 2030

53%

by 2050



The image features the European Union flag, which is a blue field with twelve gold stars arranged in a circle. The flag is shown waving on a flagpole against a dark blue background. A thin green vertical line is positioned to the left of the text.

The European Commission has recognised the urgent need to transition to a circular economy, as demonstrated in the EU Green Deal and new **Action Plan on Circular Economy**.

Circular Economy is a key tool to decarbonise our regions at scale.

A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere. The image captures the Americas, the Atlantic Ocean, and parts of Europe and Africa. The Earth's surface is a mix of blue oceans, green and brown landmasses, and white cloud cover. The background is the dark void of space, filled with numerous stars.

EIT Climate-KIC empowers entire regions, industries and communities to implement a bold transition towards circular economy.

To us, this means combining tailored actions across **education, entrepreneurship and innovation** to change whole systems from linear to circular.

Key levers of change





How do we do it?

Reshaping **European policy** and public funding

Building and orchestrating a **network** of actors to address specific **challenges**

Transitioning **national and regional economies** from linear to circular

Supporting the transformation of the **private financial sector**

Developing scientific methodologies for **stakeholder engagement**

Transforming industrial **value chains**



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How do we do it?

Deep Demonstration of Circular, Regenerative Economies

- Working with the governments of Slovenia, Bulgaria and the region of Cantabria (Spain) on place-based and systemic circular economy transition.

Regional Innovation Scheme

- Exploring how the circular economy can act as an enabler for multi-stakeholders' innovation ecosystems activation in regions and countries from Southern and Central Eastern Europe

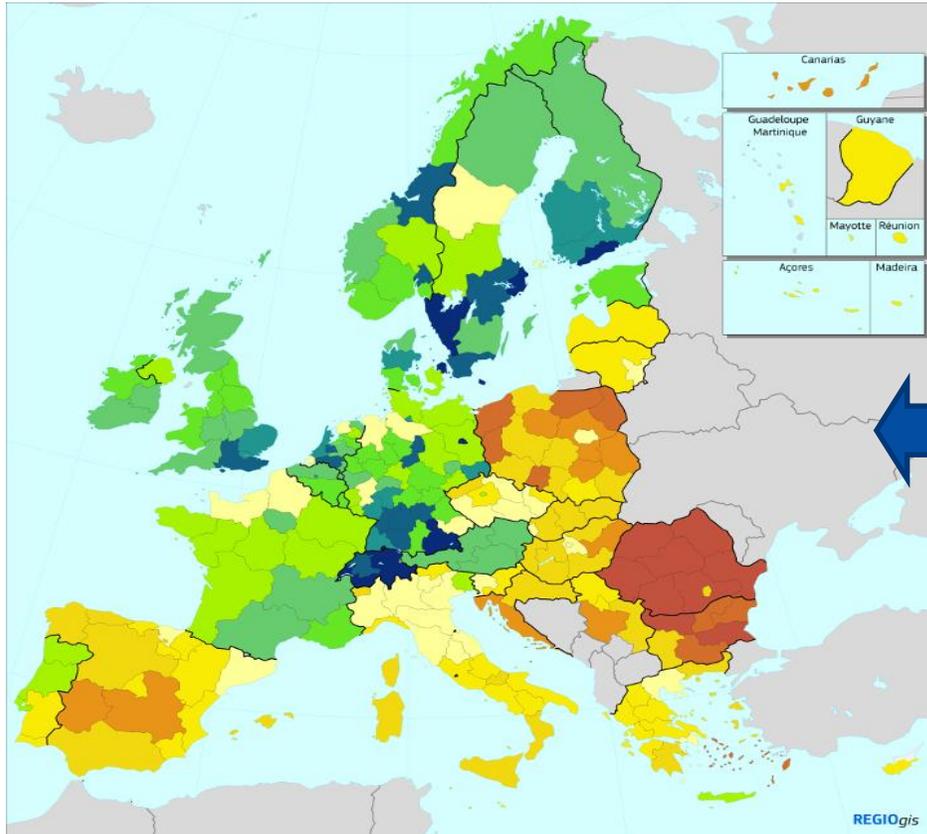
Transitioning national and regional economies from linear to circular

What is the Regional Innovation Scheme?

The RIS (Regional Innovation Scheme) program is designed as a **long-term initiative to strengthen the national and regional innovation eco-systems of countries that are moderate and modest innovators.**

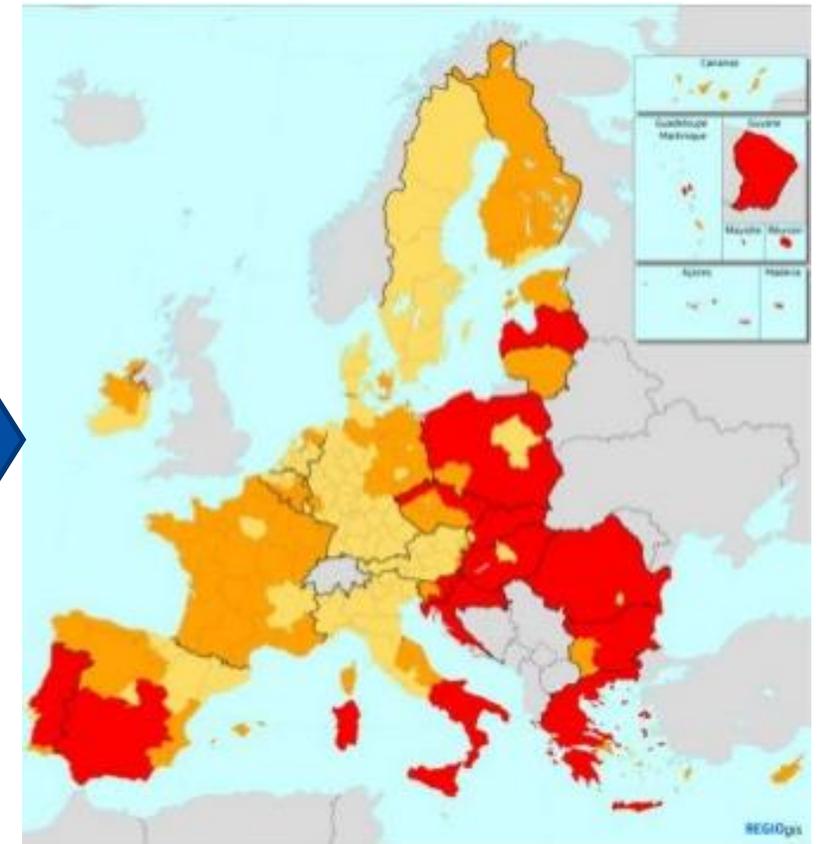
The overarching objective of the program is to **contribute to the advancement of the innovation performance of these countries and regions by strengthening the capacity of their innovation enablers and actors and linkages among them** (such as business accelerators, incubators, start-ups, scale-ups, businesses including SMEs, agencies, educational and research institutions and their infrastructures, etc.).

EIT Climate-KIC RIS programme scope



**REGIONAL
INNOVATION**

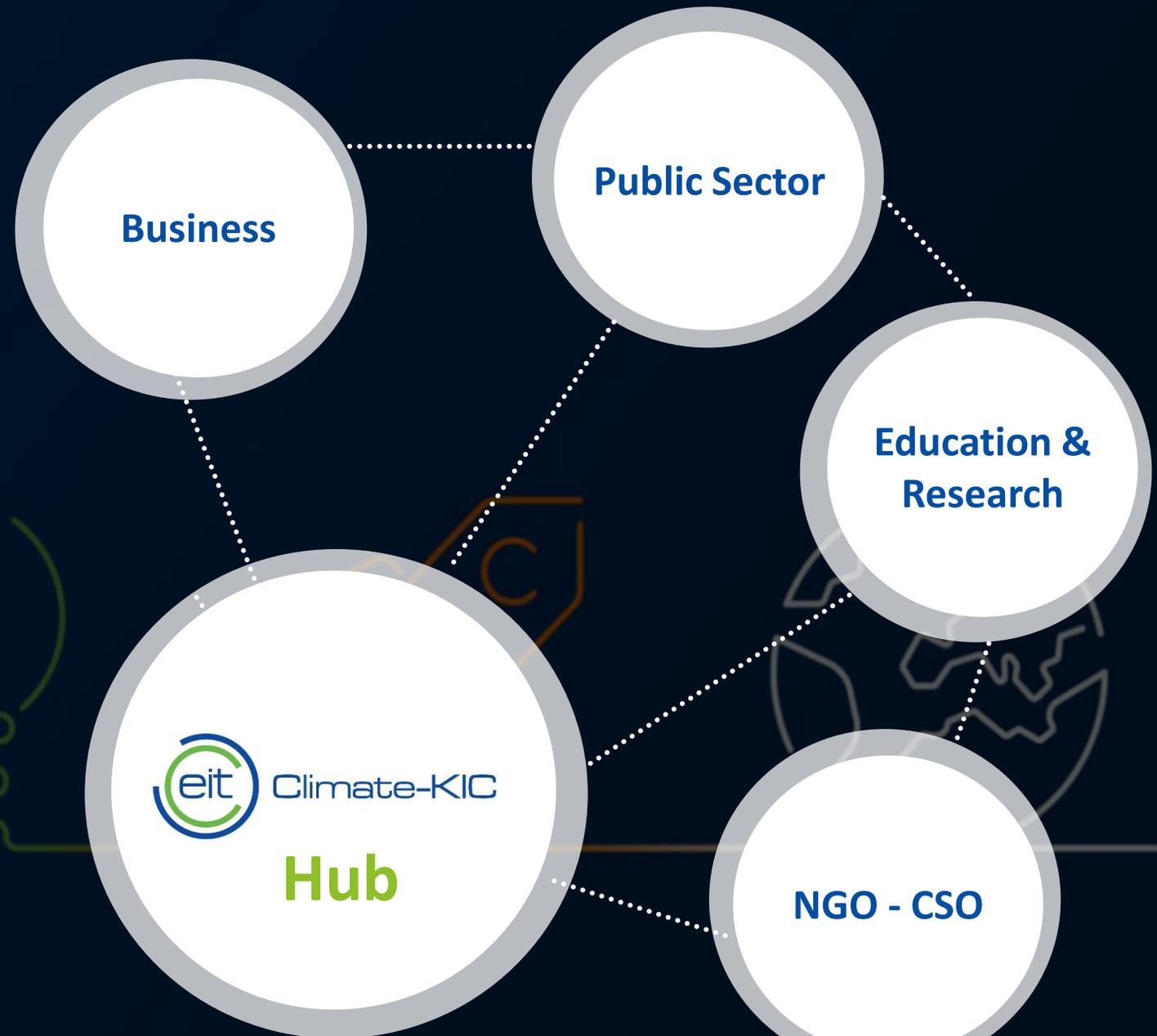
The RIS programme boosts innovation ecosystems development to improve innovation performance and act on regional disparities across Europe.



**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT**

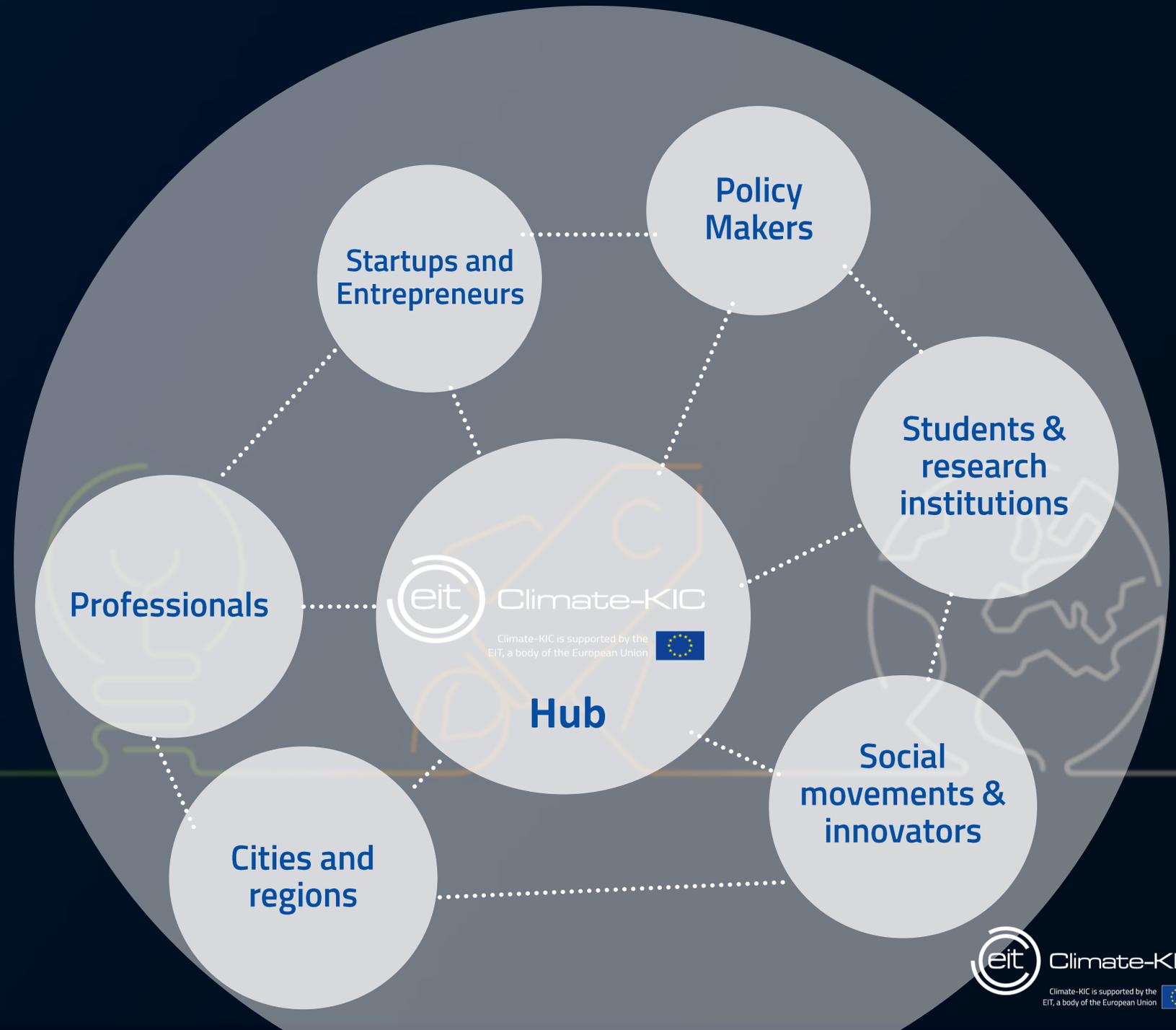
EIT RIS HUBS

We work with some of the most innovative organisations to set up EIT Climate-KIC Hubs which serve as entry points for interacting with local players, mobilising and internationalising local networks.



EIT RIS HUBs

They are catalyst for the innovation communities in each country by boosting the innovation ecosystems to thrive.





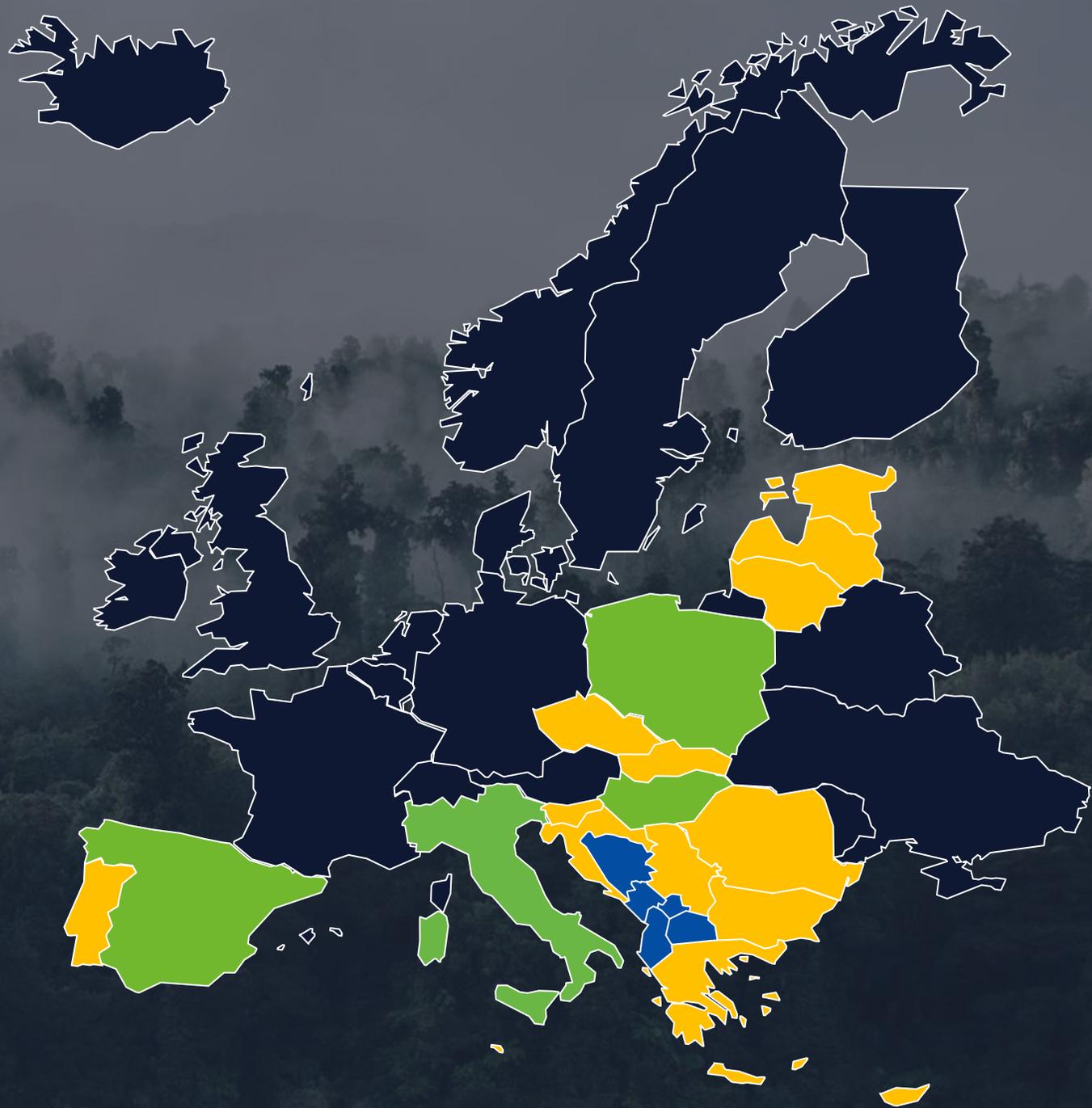
EIT RIS Hub



EIT Climate-KIC
co-location centers



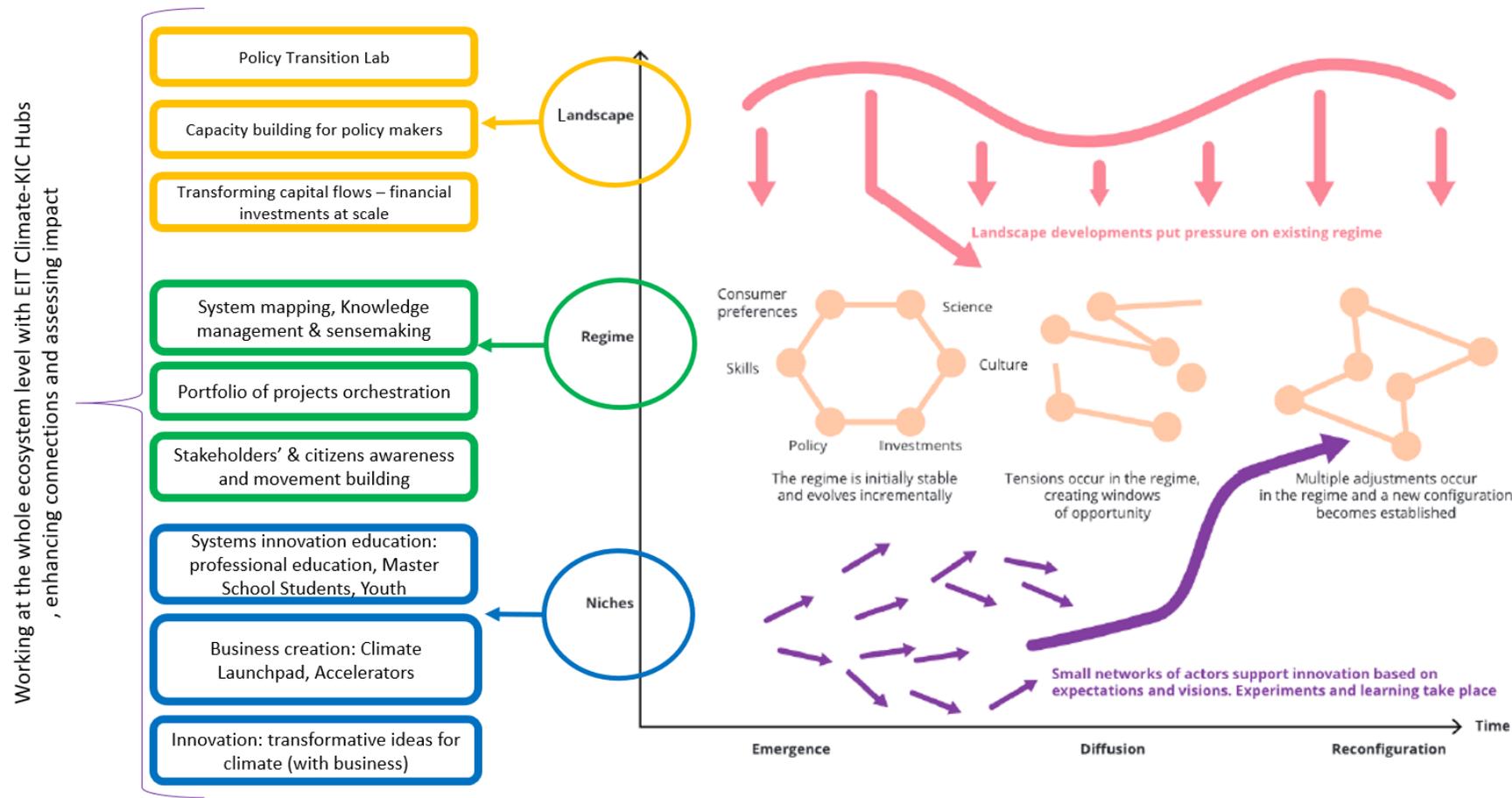
EIT X-KIC Hub
Western Balkans



Priority Topics 2018-2021



How RIS contributes to low carbon circular transitions



Elaboration from
Toolkit on sustainable transitions for cohesion policy, DG REGIO (2020)

Accelerating the transition to a circular economy by working at...

CICERONE



**SLOVENIA
BULGARIA
YOUR
COUNTRY?**

**SILESIA
CANTABRIA
BASQUE COUNTRY
YOUR REGION?**

**MALMÖ
MALAGA
BIRMINGHAM**

EUROPEAN
level

NATIONAL
level

REGIONAL
level

CITY
level

PORTS

INDUSTRY

Circular, Regenerative economy plan in Slovenia

Create circular communities



Circular schools



Circular learning & resources



Circular synergies

Foster circular development



Circular discovery process



Circular performance



SME circular innovation support

Circular policy design



Transitions policy lab



Circular procurement



Circular higher education



Forest-based value chains

Built environment

Mobility

Manufacturing

Food system



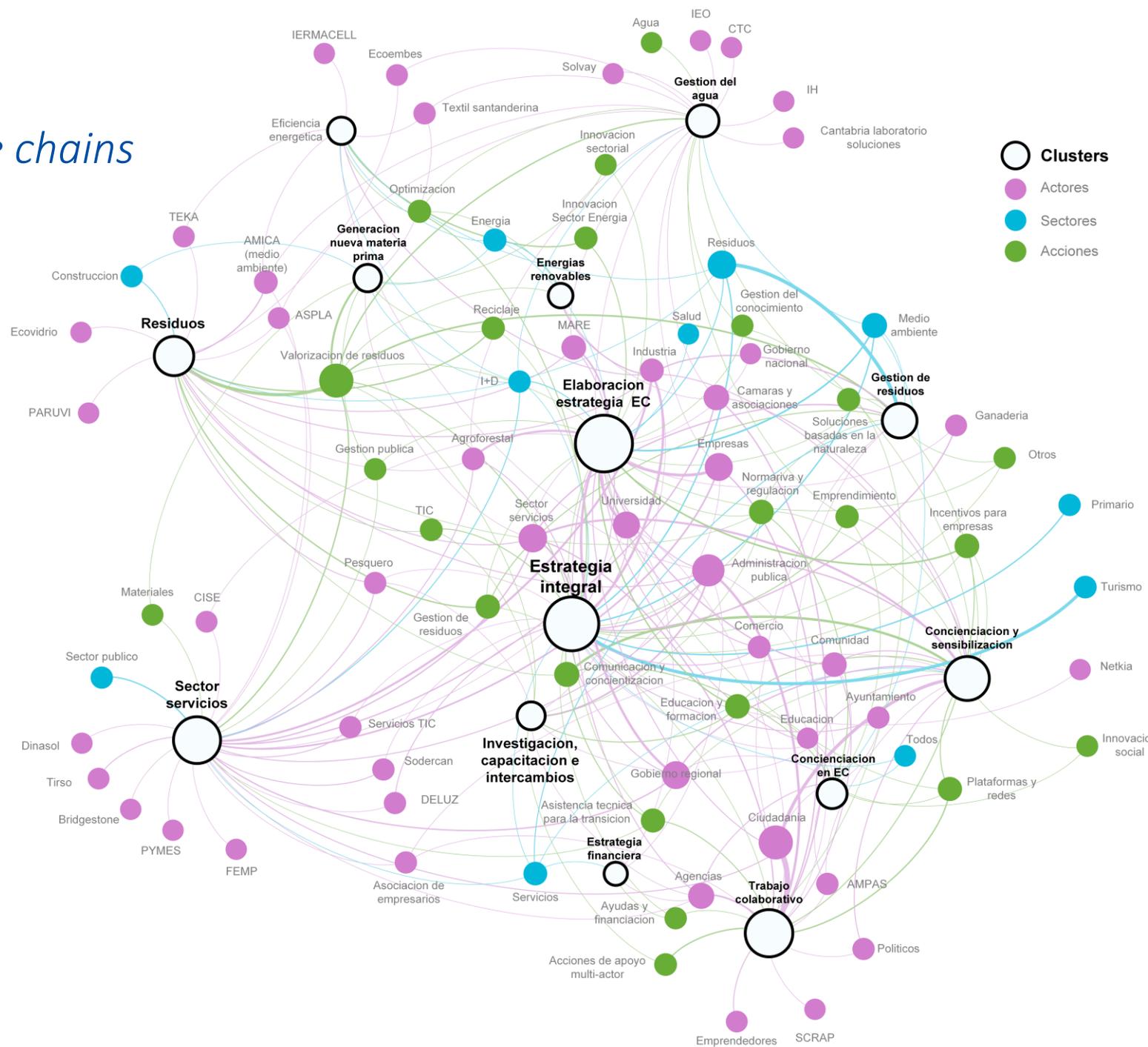
Transformation Capital for Circular Economy



Cantabria Region

Systemic innovation through value chains

- Technical assistance to address multilevel policy mix frameworks: Green Deal, Recovery Fund, Cohesion Policy
- Systemic and integrated portfolio of actions
- Alignments between multiples regional strategies: Smart Specialization, Circular Economy, R&I, Climate Change
- Inclusive approach for co-design actions and interventions (government, industry, universities and society)



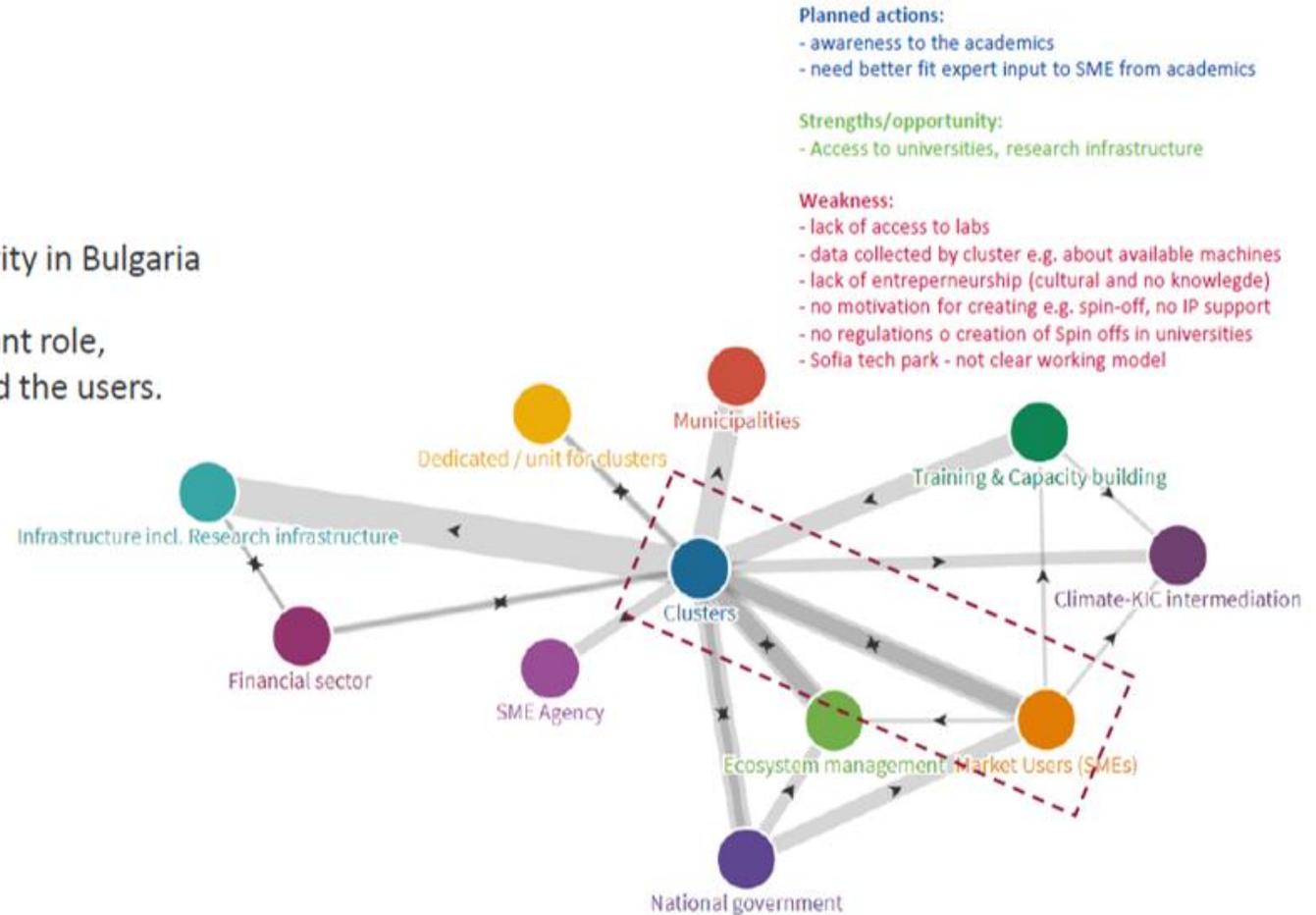
Bulgaria

Value network mapping – Industrial Clusters for circularity

Focus group 2: Industrial Clusters

Review of the co-created network for circularity in Bulgaria

- ✓ National Government is given an important role, again in relation between the clusters and the users.
- ✓ The most mentioned transaction is from clusters to infrastructure.



Review more details in the interactive graph online:
<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/4674983/>



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Reshaping **European policy** and public funding

CICERONE

- Objective: Coordinate Circular Economy Research and Innovation in Europe
- Outputs: A Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda for Circular Economy in Europe, to align priorities of countries, regions and cities across the EU territory.
- Supported by a platform for public funders of Circular Economy to co-design joint, systemic circular economy programmes.



EU CIRCULAR
COOPERATION
HUB

ACTION-DRIVEN

COLLABORATIVE

EUROPEAN POs

SYSTEMIC

OUTCOMES

- RESOURCE MOBILISATION
- INSTITUTIONALISED PROCESSES & PRACTICES
- IMPROVED FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
- APPLIED USE OF NEW KNOWLEDGE
- LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIMENTATION

CO-CREATION
CAPACITY IN A
TRANSITION
PERIOD

OUTPUTS

- PO ENGAGEMENT
- **PROTOTYPES JP PROCESSES**
- MOOC PARTICIPANTS
- PO TRAINING
- **PUBLICATIONS & EVENTS**

SERVICES

JOINT PROGRAMMES

CAPACITY BUILDING

POLICY

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

ACTIVATION PLAN

FIRST
STAGE

Management &
Governing Board

Working
Groups

Planning co-
design process

Launching
activities

Co-design of joint programmes process

SECOND
STAGE

Networking

Technical
Assistance

Workshops &
Training

Joint & Future
Funding

SRIA update

Knowledge
Management

① SRIA

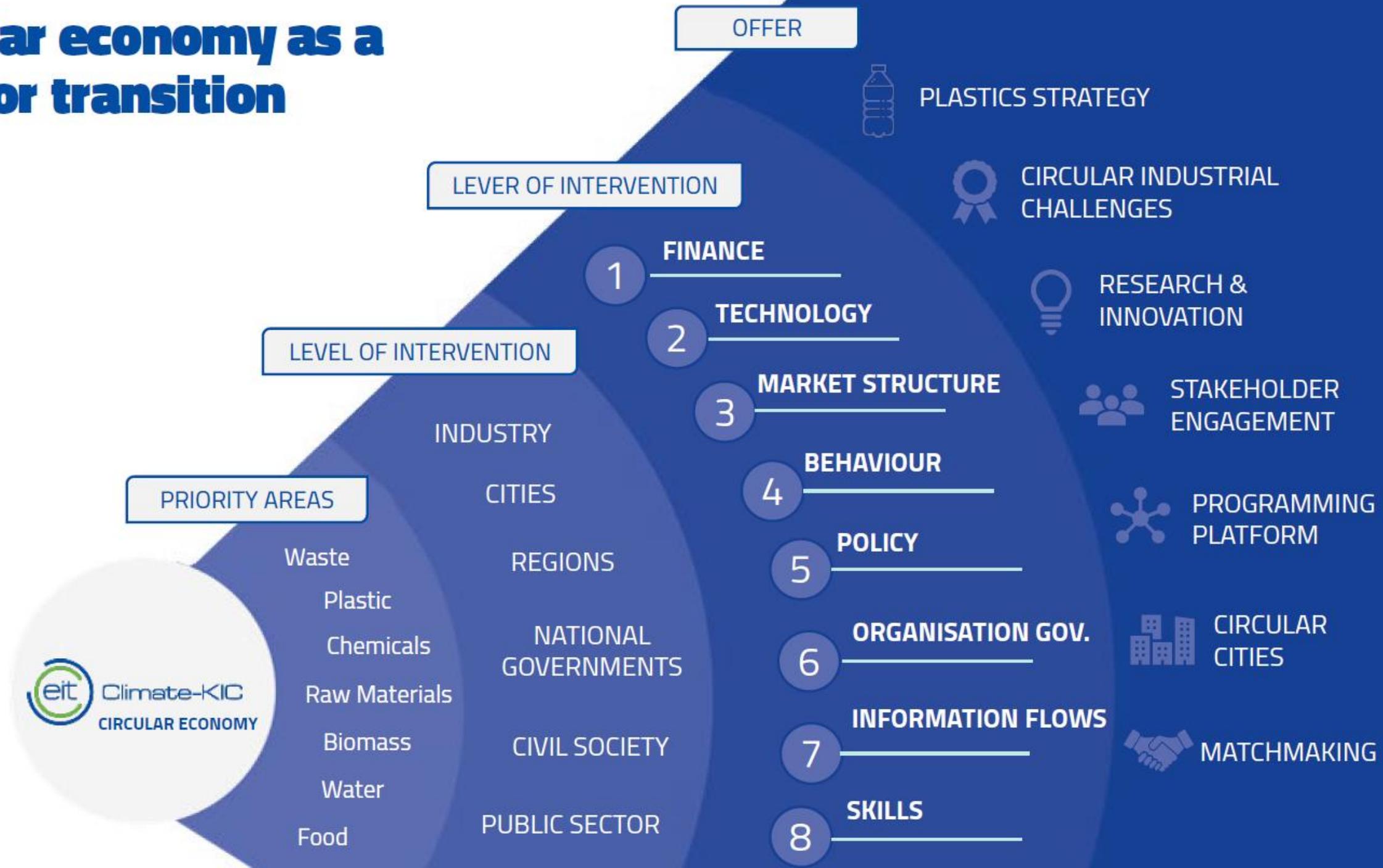
② MOOC

③ POLICY
TOOLKIT

④ CE
REPOSITORY

⑤ POSITION
PAPERS

Circular economy as a tool for transition



Are you joining us?

check it : www.circulareconomy.climate-kic.org

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Delivery supported by research and thought leadership

