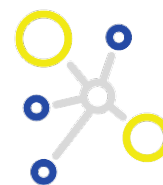


NEIA COALITION OF THE WILLING



Background

The **Coalition of the Willing** was founded in presence of **Mariya Gabriel**, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth, on 6 July 2022, less than 24 hours after the publication of the New European Innovation Agenda (NEIA). The NEIA is a landmark publication of the European Commission, whose preparation was done in concert with a broad variety of innovation ecosystem stakeholders such as national startup associations, unicorn CEOs, female founders, and women in Venture Capital.

The NEIA aims to position Europe at the **forefront of the new wave of deep tech innovation and start-ups**. It will help Europe to develop new technologies to address the most pressing societal challenges, and to bring them on the market. The NEIA is structured around five Flagships: **improving access to finance** for European start-ups and scale-ups; improving the conditions to allow innovators to experiment with new ideas through **regulatory sandboxes**; creating “**regional innovation valleys**” that will strengthen and better connect innovation players through Europe; attracting and retaining talent in Europe, e.g., by training **1 million deep tech talents**, increasing support for women innovators and innovating with start-up employees’ stock options; and improving the policy framework through clearer terminology, indicators and data sets, as well as **policy support to Member States**.

The Coalition of the Willing was born out of the realisation that Europe needs a **broad coalition of key European innovation stakeholders** to ensure an efficient and effective implementation of the NEIA. With the Coalition of the Willing, we want to **co-implement the NEIA** while having clear and open communication lines with the European Commission to improve processes where needed. Current members include innovative ecosystems, corporates, and local authorities. Collaboration with the European Universities is also actively being pursued.

Coalition of the Willing Initiatives

The Coalition of the Willing has a bias for action and its members are proposing **concrete initiatives to co-implement the NEIA Flagships**. The goal here is two-fold: to give **visibility** to best-practices and to facilitate **collaboration**.

As of December 2022, **more than 30 Coalition of the Willing initiatives** have been proposed covering the five NEIA Flagships as shown in the figure on the next page (some initiatives address more than one Flagship).

Most Coalition of the Willing initiatives have a local or inter-country application focus, while some focus on a single Member State or on the EU27 as a whole. The originating countries of the different initiatives are shown in the figure below.



Next Steps

Starting in 2023, the Coalition of the Willing will pick up the pace and meet regularly in different working groups to further refine its goals and the initiatives. Additionally, we will meet with Commissioner Gabriel twice per year to engage in an active discussion.

Are you a key innovation stakeholder and want to join the Coalition of the Willing? Contact us or submit your initiatives directly at www.coalitionofthewilling.eu

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Commissioner Gabriel engaging with the Coalition of the Willing at the European Innovation Council Summit 22