

LETTER OF SUPPORT (MS/REGION S3 ENDORSEMENT)

(To be filled in and signed by the competent authority for each country/region, assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the Portal Submission System as part of the application)

This letter is compulsory for the coordinator; it must be signed by the competent authority of the country/region where they are established. Support letters for other participants (from their competent authorities) are optional.)

COMPETENT NATIONAL/REGIONAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE S3 MANAGEMENT	
Competent authority:	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications
Department:	Department of Innovation and technology
Contact person:	Kadri Kala, Smart Specialisation manager
Legal address:	Suur-Ameerika, 1 10122 Tallinn Estonia info@mkm.ee
CONFIRMATION OF SUPPORT	
Name of the project we support:	Building Regional and SME Readiness for Interregional Value Chains — BRAVE
Coordinator:	Uroš Malbašič, TECES GROZD ZELENIH TEHNOLOGIJ MARIBOR
We hereby confirm that:	
1) we support the application	Yes
2) it is consistent and addresses the national/regional S3 policies, strategies and priorities as identified by this authority	Yes
Additional information (optional)	
<i>Add additional information on the project's contribution to the S3 priorities.</i>	
<p>The project is aligned with the objectives of the relevant national Smart Specialisation Strategy, as it focuses on strengthening regional innovation ecosystems and building capacities for interregional cooperation.</p> <p>Through the analysis and activation of innovation ecosystems, the strengthening of capacities of innovation intermediaries, and the preparation of interregional value chains and innovation investment pipelines, the project supports effective implementation and governance of smart specialisation priorities.</p> <p>The project will contribute to learning based on public policies and to the transfer of experience into future policy design and implementation in the field of smart specialisation.</p> <p>The proposed project directly contributes to Estonia's Smart Specialisation (S3) priorities by strengthening ecosystem capacity in Digital Solutions across All Sectors as a horizontal enabler, while supporting application domains such as Smart and Sustainable Energy Solutions and Valorisation of Local Resources. Through interregional cooperation, the project will map digital capabilities, mobilise SMEs and innovation intermediaries, develop secure and interoperable data-driven value chain concepts, and prepare investment-ready business cases aligned with shared S3 priorities. By focusing on data economy development, cybersecurity readiness, and cross-sector digital integration, the project enhances Estonia's competitiveness, supports the green and digital transition, and increases readiness for future interregional innovation investments under the I3 Instrument.</p>	
SIGNATURE OF THE AUTHORISED PERSON	

Name and function:	Sigrid Rajalo, Deputy Secretary General for Economics and Innovation
Date of signature:	20.02.2026
Signature and stamp:	

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	15.11.2021	Initial version (new MFF)
2.0	15.05.2023	Additional information on recognition as Regional Innovation Valley.
3.0	01.03.2024	Information on recognition as Regional Innovation Valley deleted.