6SAVA Newsletter #3

Four projects, one goal: making Horizon Europe results work for our region

In January 2026, representatives of four "Pathways to Synergies – downstream" Horizon Europe projects met in Belgrade, brought together by a shared challenge that cuts across domains and borders. Over two intensive workshop days at the Palace of Science, we mapped our regions' innovation ecosystems, stress-tested our funding assumptions, and found that what we're each experiencing independently tells a much larger, common story. If you work in research, industry, or policy in our region — we invite you to read on, and to join us in building stronger innovation pathways across our countries.

– 6SAVA coordination team

KEY FINDINGS • JOINT WORKSHOP • BELGRADE, JANUARY 2026

1. **Alignment is necessary, but not sufficient** · Matching HEU priorities with national S3 strategies is a prerequisite for downstream valorisation, not a guarantee of it.
2. **Funding pathways for uptake remain underdeveloped** · Dedicated mechanisms to deploy and scale HEU results are largely missing across Widening countries.
3. **Structural gaps persist across the innovation chain** · Strategy design, funding implementation and project-level needs remain poorly connected.
4. **Innovation intermediaries are critical but underrecognised** · Organisations bridging research, industry and policy lack formal recognition and support.
5. **Cross-country evidence strengthens the case for coordinated action** · Shared cross-country evidence makes a stronger, more credible case for policy action.

4	2	50+	1
DOWNSTREAM PROJECTS	WORKSHOPS IN 2 DAYS	STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED	JOINT WHITEPAPER IN PREP

THE DOWNSTREAM COMMUNITY

6SAVA
6thSense Asset Valorization Action
HEALTH MONITORING • CIVIL PROTECTION • INDUSTRY 4.0

SynGRID
Creating synergies on the topic of low-voltage grid management
SMART GRID • RENEWABLES • DSO DIGITAL TOOLS

SynHealth
Synergy for Healthy Longevity
PERSONALIZED MEDICINE • LONGEVITY • BIOMARKERS

PATTERN
Planning a Digital Twin for Greener Road Infrastucture
TRANSPORT • DIGITAL TWIN • SUSTAINABILITY

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research & innovation programme under grant agreement No 101159927

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JOINT WORKSHOP · 22-23 JANUARY 2026

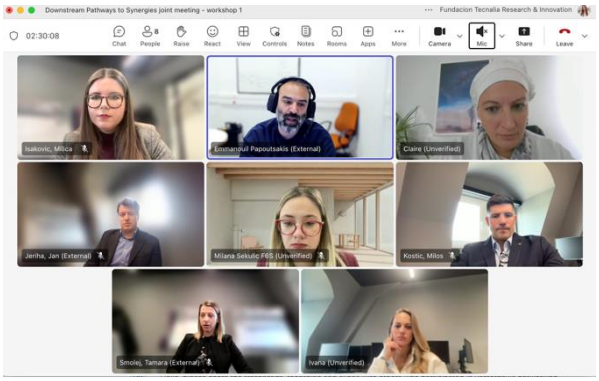
Stronger together:

Downstream projects join forces

Palace of Science, Belgrade | **4 projects · 8 participants · 2 days** | **Hybrid format**

WHAT IS THE PATHWAYS TO SYNERGIES CALL?

Pathways to Synergies (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-04) is a Horizon Europe pilot call supporting projects that bridge the gap between EU research funding and regional instruments (ERDF, INTERREG, and national innovation schemes). Of 16 funded projects, only **5 work on the downstream pathway**: valorising validated research results towards real-world deployment. 6SAVA is one of them, and the four projects that met in Belgrade represent the active core of this community



DAY 1 • 22 JANUARY 2026

Joint mapping of Innovation Stakeholders

Using structured expert elicitation and a shared cross-project comparison matrix, participants mapped their innovation stakeholder ecosystems — identifying who is being engaged, what is working, and crucially, who is missing. The findings were then discussed collectively, surfacing overlaps and regional complementarities across projects and countries, and identifying priority stakeholder categories for joint engagement.

DAY 2 • 23 JANUARY 2026

Bridging Horizon Europe and national S3 frameworks

Each project presented the national and regional funding landscape most relevant to their Horizon Europe results, focusing on where S3 priorities align with what they are trying to bring to market, and where that alignment breaks down in practice. A facilitated cross-country analysis then moved from national descriptions to a regional perspective: identifying structural barriers common to Widening countries and complementarities that could be leveraged through cooperation. The session concluded with participants agreeing on the scope, structure, and responsibilities for the joint white paper.



JOINT WHITE PAPER • IN PREPARATION

The workshops gave rise to a joint publication co-authored by all four projects, titled **"Operationalizing Downstream Synergies by linking Horizon Europe results with S3 priorities and national funding"**. Addressed to both EU institutions and national policymakers, it is expected in the coming months.

WIDERA NETWORKING EVENT · 22 JANUARY 2026

"Synergies between Horizon Europe and national innovation initiatives"

50+	3	2	3
PARTICIPANTS FROM SERBIAN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM	PATHWAYS TO SYNERGIES PROJECTS PRESENTED	PROJECTS ORGANIZERS: 6SAVA · CITADELS	STAKEHOLDER GROUPS: POLICY · ACADEMIA · INDUSTRY









MEET THE DOWNSTREAM COMMUNITY

Four domains. Four countries. One shared mission.

All four projects are funded under the Pathways to Synergies call. Each works in a different domain and focus region, but all tackle the same fundamental challenge of downstream synergies: turning validated, EU-funded research results into real-world impact in Widening countries and finding the regional funding pathways to make it happen.

Coordinated by
Tecnalia Serbia Ltd
Serbia

6SAVA

6sava.eu

6thSense Asset Valorization Action

HEALTH MONITORING • CIVIL PROTECTION • INDUSTRY 4.0

6SAVA is a Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action that aims to advance the market uptake of technologies developed in the H2020 project SIXTHSENSE. The project focuses on adapting and commercialising two key solutions in Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, by aligning them with regional Smart Specialisation Strategies and industrial needs: (1) an Industry 4.0 health monitoring device for worker safety in demanding industrial environments, and (2) an IT solution for firefighter operational management.

Coordinated by
Institute for Innovation and Development of University of Ljubljana
Slovenia

SynGRID

syngrid-project.eu

Creating synergies in Widening countries on the topic of low-voltage grid management

SMART GRID • RENEWABLES • DSO DIGITAL TOOLS

SynGRID is a Horizon Europe project connecting research institutions and industry from Slovenia, Croatia, and Greece. The project focuses on smarter management of low-voltage electricity grids, enabling better integration of renewable energy sources into local energy systems. Through cross-sector and cross-border collaboration, SynGRID builds regional expertise and drives innovation in clean energy infrastructure.

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