

High Performance Production Through 3d-Printing, the Vanguard Initiative 3DP Pilot

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The Vanguard Initiative (VI) is a European Network of leading industrial regions aiming to boost the performance of regional innovation ecosystems. It is a unique alliance that gathers 39 of the most advanced industrial regions in Europe, focused on stimulating industrial innovation. The Vanguard Initiative contributes to building European industrial value chains by making use of the complementarities between the participating regions and their regional smart specialization strategies.

Among the 7 thematic pilot projects coordinated in VI there is one on 3D Printing. This pilot project has the key objective to accelerate the market deployment and uptake of 3DP-enabled solutions in the EU. It does so through the development of industry-led, trans-regional demonstration platforms (so-called 'demo cases') and projects that connect 3DP capabilities and actors that are operating in so far largely disconnected and fragmented value chains in Europe. Doing so the 3DP Pilot will contribute to the emergence of new value chains.

In this context, the 3DP Pilot connects existing capabilities and addresses information asymmetry, thereby enabling actors to find the complementary expertise they are looking for. The pilot also addresses transversal challenges (such as 'skills') and ensures the availability and accessibility to 3DP equipment and test infrastructures that will effectively serve the needs of the industry.

At this stage, the VI 3DP Pilot is:

- implementing 9 'demo cases' and, within these demo cases, various applications-specific projects with industrial participants;
- developing 4 new project ideas