



Ministry of
Education, Science
and Innovation

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME 2026 - 2030





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INTRODUCTION

Montenegro is at an important turning point in its development, marked by the intensification of the process of accession to the European Union and the need to strengthen competitiveness, resilience, and institutional readiness. In this context, research and innovation gain strategic importance, as they can accelerate the modernisation of the economy and society, support the development of new technologies, and enable alignment with European policies and standards. The establishment of an efficient, open, and interconnected research and innovation system thus becomes one of the key elements of Montenegro's long-term progress.

Despite visible progress in recent years, the research and innovation system remains in a phase of consolidation and continues to face challenges. Research institutions often operate under conditions of insufficient infrastructure and limited capacities, while available funding, although increasing, remains inadequate for the needs of a modern research and innovation environment. Cooperation between the scientific, business, and public sectors is not yet fully developed, which slows down technology transfer, limits the commercialisation of knowledge, and reduces opportunities for the creation of new products, services, and socially beneficial innovations.

At the same time, Montenegro possesses clear comparative advantages across several sectors that can serve as strong drivers of research and innovation development. The construction sector stands out due to a high-quality professional workforce and its potential for digitalisation and green technologies. The energy sector offers significant opportunities in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and smart systems. The food sector is based on agricultural traditions and authentic products, with considerable scope for modernisation and the introduction of smart solutions. Information and communication technologies (ICT) are among the most dynamic sectors and are particularly important for horizontal innovations. Tourism remains one of the most important economic activities, with strong potential for the development of sustainable solutions.

Recognising these challenges and development potentials, the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation adopts this document with a clear vision of building a modern, competitive society driven by research and innovation. The Science and Innovation Programme establishes a programmatic framework that connects knowledge institutions, the economy, and the public sector, strengthens human capacities, modernises infrastructure, and promotes innovative solutions in line with European policies, green and digital transitions. In doing so, it lays the foundations for the long-term, sustainable, and inclusive development of Montenegro.



ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

I. PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME

The purpose of the Programme is to establish a stable, coordinated, and long-term oriented framework for the development of research, development, and innovation, through the planning of investments and the definition of an indicative multiannual financial framework. The financial framework for the following five-year period, at an indicative level, provides for the possibility of contracting up to EUR 131,822,000.00 for research, science, and innovation. The actual expenditure of these funds will be phased over several years, in accordance with the dynamics of project implementation and the applicable budgetary framework. The implementation of the Programme will be further elaborated through annual budgetary procedures, depending on available financial capacities and other national budget priorities. In addition to budgetary resources, financing will also be ensured from European Union funds and other international sources, as well as from the Programme for Investments of Special Importance for the Economic and Development Interests of Montenegro, within the innovation investment component.

The Programme is aligned with the objectives of the Montenegro Reform Agenda 2024–2027 under the EU Instrument for Reforms and Growth¹, which forms an integral part of the EU Growth Plan for the Western Balkans and is aimed at accelerating Montenegro's economic convergence with the European Union average, as well as at implementing key reforms within the framework of Montenegro's EU accession process. In this context, the Programme makes a specific contribution to the implementation of Reform 1.2.2, "Further development of the research and innovation ecosystem for a knowledge-based economy." The implementation of the Programme is based on strategic guidelines defined by the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Montenegro 2019-2024², the Strategy for Scientific Research Activity of Montenegro 2024-2028³, and Montenegro Research Infrastructures Roadmap 2024-2028⁴. The Science and Innovation Programme is adopted during the preparation of the new Smart Specialisation Strategy of Montenegro 2026–2031, as well as during a period of intensified preparatory activities related to Montenegro's accession to the European Union. The Programme is designed to allow alignment with new strategic documents and priorities arising from these processes, thereby ensuring its continued relevance and applicability in the fields of science, research, development and innovation.

The objective of the Programme is achieved through:

1. Long-term planning supported by a framework multiannual financial plan enabling predictable investment and decision-making, in line with EU fund rules

The establishment of a long-term, indicative multiannual financial framework, as a key mechanism for the strategic management of investments in the field of research and innovation, ensures greater predictability and consistency in the planning and implementation of activities of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation of Montenegro, the Innovation Fund of Montenegro, the Tehnopolis Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre, and the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, as well as of the final beneficiaries of the Programme (innovative enterprises, start-ups, research and

¹ Montenegro Reform Agenda 2024-2027 under the EU Instrument for Reforms and Growth

² Smart Specialisation Strategy of Montenegro

³ Strategy for Scientific Research Activity of Montenegro 2024-2028

⁴ Montenegro Research Infrastructures Roadmap 2024-2028

educational institutions, and other eligible beneficiaries). Such a framework enables more efficient contracting and phasing of projects, improved coordination of funding sources, increased transparency in the allocation of public funds, and enhanced monitoring of the results and impacts of investments. The financial framework is exclusively indicative in nature and will be further specified and adjusted in accordance with future decisions on the allocation of national budgetary and EU funds; it therefore does not imply that the funds are fully secured in advance for the alignment of support instruments with priority thematic areas and value chains.

2. Establishment of a coherent and effective framework for research and innovation linking science, the economy and society

The establishment of a coherent research and innovation framework that connects research organisations and the business sector, and that fosters cooperation, technology transfer and the use of research results in the economy and society. In this way, the research sector is assigned an increasingly important role in supporting innovation processes and enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of the economy, as well as in overall social development through the transfer of knowledge generated by research and the commercialisation of research results. Within the part of the Programme related to scientific research activities, excellence is promoted with the ultimate objective of increasing the international visibility of Montenegrin science, while also achieving a level of quality of results that enables their effective use in the business sector and society.

3. Operationalisation of key strategies

The Programme enables the translation of objectives defined in the Smart Specialisation Strategy of Montenegro 2019-2024 (S3)⁵, the Strategy for Scientific Research Activity of Montenegro 2024-2028⁶, and Montenegro Research Infrastructures Roadmap 2024-2028⁷ into concrete measures, investments and projects. In doing so, it ensures that priorities identified at the strategic level are consistently implemented through funding programmes, the development of research infrastructure and the strengthening of capacities of research organisations and the business sector, in line with Montenegro's obligations in the European Union accession process.

4. Efficient implementation and coordination

The Programme establishes a platform through which all implementing actors (the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, the Innovation Fund of Montenegro, the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, and the Tehnopolis Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre) operate in synergy, in accordance with shared objectives, priorities and expected results.

II. PROGRAMME GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

Programme governance is based on a partnership model in which each institution retains its institutional and programmatic autonomy, while the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation assumes the role of the overarching coordinator. The Ministry will ensure alignment with national strategic documents, as well as the complementarity and coherence of measures in the fields of scientific research activity, innovation and smart specialisation. In order to preserve the autonomy of implementing bodies, while at the same time preventing fragmentation and the diversion of funds, a common framework for the programming and financing of measures in these fields will

5 <https://www.gov.me/dokumenta/855d6fbf-9936-4cba-b59b-4578b3bf3670>

6 <https://www.gov.me/dokumenta/6a6eacae-9d5a-4b48-91fa-5330c280a08d>

7 <https://www.gov.me/clanak/usvojena-mapa-puta-za-istrazivacku-infrastrukturu-crne-gore-2024-2028>

be established. Resources from the state budget and relevant international and EU funds allocated to scientific research activity, innovation and smart specialisation will be directed exclusively to measures covered by this framework and meeting the established criteria. Programmes and instruments that are not aligned with this framework and do not use the common monitoring and evaluation system will not be financed from these sources. The launch of new programmes and support instruments in these fields will be carried out subject to mandatory alignment with the framework and prior consideration by the competent Directorates, the inter-institutional working group and relevant councils.

The Council for Innovation and Smart Specialisation and the Council for Scientific Research Activity will operate in a complementary and advisory manner, within the scope of their legally defined mandates. Based on the results of the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process (EDP), the Council for Innovation and Smart Specialisation will review and approve programmes in the fields of innovation and smart specialisation, and provide recommendations for aligning support instruments with priority thematic areas and value chains. Innovation Working Groups will serve as the working bodies of this Council and as an integral part of the national S3 implementation framework, ensuring continuity of the entrepreneurial discovery process. The Council for Scientific Research Activity will monitor the implementation of the Strategy for Scientific Research Activity, propose research priorities and the development of national research infrastructure, and provide recommendations for steering investments in research capacities and scientific excellence.

A key operational role will be played by the Directorate for Innovation and Smart Specialisation and the Directorate for Scientific Research Activity. The Directorate for Innovation and Smart Specialisation will develop instruments that build on the results of publicly funded research and orient them towards the market (intellectual property protection, proof of concept, innovation vouchers, pilot projects with industry, and programmes for start-ups and scale-up companies in S3 priority areas). In addition to planning, the Directorate for Scientific Research Activity will implement programmes aimed at strengthening research capacities, projects and infrastructure, with particular attention to the potential of research results for subsequent application in the economy and society. For measures that link research and innovation (e.g. support for applied research, technology transfer, proof of concept), the two Directorates will jointly programme and prepare interventions, in close cooperation with other Programme stakeholders, in order to ensure a coherent “support chain” from research to market.

Support instruments included in the common framework are defined on the basis of minimum criteria, which include: clearly demonstrated alignment with the Smart Specialisation Strategy and/or the Strategy for Scientific Research Activity; a focus on research, development and innovation activities, rather than on general support measures without a clear research and innovation component; clearly defined target groups (research organisations, innovative enterprises, start-ups and scale-up companies, science–industry consortia, etc.); a clearly defined position of each instrument within the “support chain” from research to market; demonstrated added value and complementarity in relation to existing programmes; as well as transparent and competitive funding allocation procedures based on public calls and pre-announced criteria.

For the purpose of practical coordination, the establishment of a permanent inter-institutional working group is envisaged, comprising representatives of both Directorates, the Innovation Fund of Montenegro, the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, and the Tehnopolis Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre. Where necessary, other interested stakeholders may participate in the work of the group in the capacity of observers. The Working Group is conceived as a platform for joint annual programming, within which each institution presents its planned programmes and public calls, while the Working Group analyses their mutual linkages, maps the “user journey” (from research projects and intellectual property protection, through prototypes and pilot projects, to commercialisation and internationalisation), and proposes measures to address identified gaps

or overlaps. The recommendations of the Working Group will serve as an expert basis for aligning the programmatic and financial framework at the level of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation. Each institution independently prepares its annual programmes and public calls and decides on the specific design and implementation of its measures, but exclusively within the adopted programmatic and financial framework, common criteria, and a unified system for monitoring and evaluation.

To support this governance approach, the establishment of a single integrated information system for the monitoring and evaluation of programmes in the fields of science, innovation and smart specialisation is envisaged. All actors will use harmonised indicators and a shared digital platform for the entry and analysis of data on calls, projects, beneficiaries, and results. All instruments included within the framework are required to use this monitoring and evaluation system. On the basis of the collected data, the competent Directorates, with the support of the inter-institutional working group, will prepare the Annual Proposal of the Programmatic and Financial Framework of Measures. This will enable monitoring of the entire process, from investments in research to concrete innovations and market outcomes, thereby ultimately enabling evidence-based decision-making on the adjustment of the Programme based on comparable and reliable information.





PROGRAMMATIC RATIONALE FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION INTERVENTIONS

In the previous period, significant progress has been achieved in strengthening the conditions for research, development and innovation, as reflected in the dynamics of public funding and the expansion of the programme beneficiary base. Budgetary support for research and development activities more than doubled between 2022 and 2023, increasing from approximately EUR 4.08 million to around EUR 10 million, while approximately EUR 15 million was allocated for research and development⁸ in 2024. This growth creates scope for reorienting programmes towards a more stable and predictable support cycle, combined with strengthened performance management, as the dynamics of funding have reached a level sufficient to sustain multiannual development pathways for research projects and innovative micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including start-ups.

At the same time, innovation activity in the business sector has a recognisable base in innovative MSMEs⁹, while the start-up ecosystem has recorded growth in recent years; however, support to date has been predominantly focused on the early stages of development. The new programmatic framework strengthens continuous support along the entire innovation pathway - from ideation and the structuring of development pipelines for ideas and projects, through commercialisation, and further on to the phases of growth, scaling and internationalisation.

A key constraint remains the low level of business sector investment in research and development. According to available data, business sector R&D expenditure amounts to 0.20% of GDP (2018)¹⁰, confirming the limited scale of private investment in the creation of new knowledge and technologies. In addition, indicators of science-industry cooperation point to limited effects of knowledge transfer to the private sector: the European Innovation Scoreboard (EIS) monitors these linkages through the indicator of public-private co-publications, on which Montenegro reached approximately 33.1% of the EU average in 2024¹¹. These findings further justify measures aimed at mobilising private investment through a combination of tax incentives and grant schemes, as well as measures to strengthen cooperation between the scientific research and business sectors, knowledge and technology transfer, and the commercialisation of research results, in order to make the transfer of outputs to the private sector more frequent and more visible.

In the field of science, the Programme maintains a focus on strengthening scientific excellence and international cooperation, with particular emphasis on deeper integration of Montenegro into the European Research Area (ERA). In this context, a strong increase has been recorded in the share of publications among the top 10% most cited compared to 2023¹², indicating improved visibility and quality of scientific results. Furthermore, participation in the Horizon Europe programme has been strengthened in recent years, with more than EUR 3.8 million in EU contributions awarded to 28 projects since 2021¹³, representing an important channel for international cooperation and for raising standards of research quality.

Research infrastructures represent an important prerequisite for high-quality science, collaboration and the application of research results. However, policies promoting open access to research infrastructures have not yet been fully embedded in practice, and the use of resources continues to be characterised by fragmentation, which limits broader accessibility and more

8 Montenegro 2024 Report, 2024 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy

9 European Innovation Scoreboard 2024 – Country Profile: Montenegro

10 ERA Country Report 2023 – Montenegro

11 European Innovation Scoreboard 2024 – Country Profile: Montenegro

12 European Innovation Scoreboard 2024 – Country Profile: Montenegro

13 Western Balkans Competitiveness Outlook 2024: Montenegro

efficient use of capacities¹⁴. The Programme therefore links this segment to the principles of open science, including the strengthening of open access and more transparent conditions for the use of research infrastructures, to the extent applicable across different institutions and types of resources.

In the area of human resources, available indicators point to a limited research base.

In 2021, employees engaged in research and development accounted for 0.24%¹⁵ of total employment in Montenegro, which is below the EU average of 1.61%¹⁶, indicating the need for further strengthening of human capital in the research and innovation sector. In this context, the Programme focuses on strengthening and rejuvenating the research workforce, in particular through support for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers, as well as through measures that support quality, mobility and international networking, while reinforcing stronger links between science and the needs of the economy and society.

14 Montenegro Research Infrastructures Roadmap 2024-2028

15 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/SEPDF/cache/45579.pdf>

16 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/SEPDF/cache/1551.pdf?utm>





PRIORITY AXES

The Programme is structured around priority axes that reflect the key objectives in the fields of scientific research activity, innovation and smart specialisation. Within each priority axis, specific objectives and a set of supporting instruments are defined, together with a clearly articulated intervention logic linking inputs, planned activities, immediate outputs and medium-term outcomes. For each priority axis and for each instrument, a set of output and outcome indicators has been established, enabling systematic monitoring of the Programme's progress and effects, as well as the timely adjustment of measures based on objective and comparable data.

Within this Programme, the financial presentation by individual instruments is based on the amount of funds planned at the annual level for new commitments in the respective year, while funds already contracted and previously assumed obligations are not covered by this presentation. The Programme covers the period 2026-2030, and the financial and indicator framework is defined on an annual basis for each year of the period, as well as cumulatively for the entire duration of the Programme. Indicators by specific objectives and instruments are presented on an annual basis, while the key Programme indicators are reported as baseline values and cumulative results for the period 2026-2030. Immediate results (outputs) are recorded in the year of implementation (delivery), while medium-term results (outcomes) are recorded in the year of verification (where evidence is available), including ex post verification where applicable. The cumulative overview covers results verified up to 31 December 2030, while the verification of indicators requiring additional analysis will continue beyond 2030 through post-programme monitoring, no later than 31 December 2032. Results verified in this manner will be reported separately in post-programme reports and evaluations.

Below are the general objectives by priority axes, which provide the framework for defining specific objectives and support instruments.

Indicative allocation of funds for Priority Axis 1 and Priority Axis 2 (2026-2030)

No.	Objective	Indicative allocation 2026-2030 (EUR)
1	PO1	90,822,000
2	PO2	41,000,000.00
	Total allocation	131,822,000.00

OVERVIEW OF PRIORITY AXES 1 AND 2

Priority Axis	General Objective	Focus and Key Types of Interventions
Priority Axis 1: Strengthening the innovation ecosystem and the research, development, and innovation capacities of the business sector	To sustainably increase the productivity and competitiveness of the Montenegrin economy by strengthening the research, development, and innovation capacities of the business sector, in particular micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including start-ups, and by supporting the systematic commercialisation of research results to achieve effective knowledge and technology transfer from the research sector to the business sector.	<p>Development of RDI capacities of MSMEs and start-ups (in-house R&D, TRL advancement, product, service, and process innovation)</p> <p>Support for investments in advanced technologies, including green and digital technologies, in the business sector</p> <p>Promotion of cooperation between the business sector and research organisations, including knowledge and technology transfer</p> <p>Development of a complete start-up and innovation pipeline (from ideation to scaling and internationalisation)</p> <p>Mobilisation of private investment in research, development, and innovation, including tax incentives for R&I investments</p>
Priority Axis 2: Advancement of the scientific research system and research excellence	To improve the quality, international recognition and societal relevance of Montenegro's scientific research system through the development of research infrastructure, strengthening of human resources and the promotion of scientific excellence, thereby increasing the production of relevant research and its contribution to addressing key societal and economic challenges, strengthening capacities for cooperation, technology transfer and knowledge commercialisation in partnership with the business sector, in strong complementarity with interventions under Priority Axis 1.	<p>Development and modernisation of research infrastructure</p> <p>Strengthening human resources in science (early-stage researchers, doctoral candidates, return of researchers from abroad)</p> <p>Promotion of scientific excellence and international cooperation (projects, networks, mobility)</p> <p>Steering research towards key societal and economic challenges and priority areas</p>

PRIORITY AXIS 1: STRENGTHENING THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AND THE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR

The purpose of Priority Axis 1 is to further strengthen the innovation ecosystem in Montenegro by encouraging innovation to become a regular and integral part of the functioning of both the economy and the public sector. This axis aims to facilitate easier access for enterprises and public institutions to knowledge, partners, and financial support for the development of new products, services, and solutions, as well as to promote planned and long-term cooperation with research organisations. In this way, Priority Axis 1 contributes to the modernisation of the economy and the public sector and creates the conditions for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups, in partnership with science and the state, to become key drivers of growth based on knowledge and technology.

INDICATIVE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR PRIORITY AXIS 1 AND PRIORITY AXIS 2 (2026-2030)

No	Objective	Indicative allocation 2026-2030 (EUR)
1	SO1	22.650.000
2	SO2	18.475.000
3	SO3	35.662.000
4	SO4	14.035.000
Total allocation		90.822.000

KEY INDICATORS FOR PA1 (2026-2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	Baseline (2025)	Target 2030
Number of innovations (products, services, technologies, or processes) developed with PA1 support that have reached the stage of commercial application by the end of 2030	Outcome	N/D	50
Number of newly employed persons in RDI and highly qualified positions among support beneficiaries	Outcome	N/D	293
Number of beneficiaries that launched at least one additional RDI/innovation project after project completion	Outcome	N/D	97
Share of innovative GovTech solutions integrated into the regular operations of public institutions at least 12 months after project completion	Outcome	N/D	30%
Share of enterprises in which an innovative EE/energy management solution has been introduced and remains operational 12 months after project completion	Outcome	N/D	≥ 85%
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) mobilised through PA1	Output	N/D	27,537,460.00 EUR
Number of MSMEs that increased TRL by at least one level and reached at least TRL 6	Output	N/D	138
Number of Proof-of-Concept (PoC) projects ready for further commercialisation	Output	N/D	67
Number of enterprises that, with the support of EE programmes, introduced an innovative solution to improve energy efficiency and/or energy management	Output	N/D	30
Number of supported start-ups/companies in acceleration, commercialisation, and internationalisation	Output	N/D	255
Number of financed and/or piloted innovative solutions addressing public and societal challenges (GovTech)	Output	N/D	106

Legend: N/D – no data available for 2025 (programmes were not unified nor systematically monitored; 2026 is the first reference year of the new monitoring system).



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (SO) UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 1:

SO1: STRENGTHENING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTEGRATION INTO THE ERA

Objective: To increase business sector investment in research, development, and innovation by supporting the development of in-house research and development capacities, human resources, and infrastructure; encouraging the development of new products, services, and process innovations; and fostering the adoption and adaptation of advanced technologies, including green and digital technologies, that contribute to business efficiency, productivity, and sustainability.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATION UNDER SO1 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument Name	Indicative Allocation SO1 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Programme for Strengthening the Innovation Capacity of Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises	14.300.000
2	Proof of Innovative Concept Programme for the Business Sector	1.350.000
3	Programme Line for Encouraging Innovation to Improve Energy Efficiency in Industry	7.000.000
Total Funds		22.650.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING THE INNOVATION CAPACITY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES**1. Description of the Instrument**

This Programme is focused on providing support to micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including start-ups in the growth stage, that develop innovations for which there is market demand.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the instrument is to increase the innovation capacity of MSMEs through the development and introduction of process innovations, as well as new or significantly improved market-oriented products, services, or technologies. Support is provided for pre-commercial activities that enable the development of such solutions aimed at greater commercialisation of results, as well as for the introduction of new or improved business processes to achieve faster production, higher quality, or lower costs.

3. Beneficiaries

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including newly established enterprises (start-ups in the growth stage).

4. Implementing Body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026-2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	1.300.000	100.000-300.000	4-13	1
2027.	2.400.000	100.000-300.000	8-24	1
2028.	3.000.000	150.000-300.000	10-20	1
2029.	3.600.000	150.000-300.000	12-24	1
2030.	4.000.000	150.000-300.000	13-26	1
TOTAL	14.300.000		47-107	5

INSTRUMENT 2 – PROOF OF INNOVATIVE CONCEPT PROGRAMME FOR THE BUSINESS SECTOR

1. Description of the Instrument

The Proof of Innovative Concept Programme (Proof of Concept – PoC) is aimed at supporting innovations at an early stage of research, to verify the technical feasibility of a new process, product, or technology, and assess its potential for future commercial application. The programme covers projects with a high level of technological risk, where it is not yet known whether the proposed solution can be developed into a functional outcome. The PoC result may be positive or negative, and its purpose is to provide a reliable basis for decision-making on further development.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To provide pre-commercial funding for the technical and market validation of innovative ideas and to strengthen the capacities of the private sector and research institutions in research, development, and innovation. The programme should demonstrate whether an idea is technically feasible and market-relevant and whether it justifies further investment in its development.

3. Beneficiaries

Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

4. Implementing Body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	200.000	20.000-40.000	5-10	1
2027.	200.000	20.000-40.000	5-10	1
2028.	250.000	25.000-50.000	5-10	1
2029.	300.000	25.000-50.000	6 -12	1
2030.	400.000	25.000-50.000	8-16	1
TOTAL	1.350.000		29-58	5

INSTRUMENT 3 – PROGRAMME LINE FOR ENCOURAGING INNOVATION TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY

1. Description of the Instrument

The Programme for Encouraging Innovation to Improve Energy Efficiency in Industry aims to contribute to increased energy efficiency and/or increased use of available renewable energy sources by MSMEs and large enterprises in the manufacturing industry through the introduction of innovative technologies. This is a joint programme of the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, and the Ministry of Energy, implemented by the Innovation Fund of Montenegro, with a focus on improving energy efficiency in the manufacturing industry through the use of modern technologies.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The specific objectives of the programme are to improve the business performance of MSMEs and large enterprises in the manufacturing industry by introducing digital solutions that contribute to improved energy management; to enhance energy management practices among MSMEs and large enterprises in the manufacturing industry; and to strengthen the capacities of MSMEs and large enterprises in the manufacturing industry for managing energy efficiency and/or using renewable/clean energy sources.

3. Beneficiaries

Micro, small, medium-sized, and large enterprises operating in the manufacturing industry.

4. Implementing Body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026-2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	0	0	0	0
2028.	3000.000	100.000-300.000	10-20	1
2029.	0	0	0	0
2030.	4000.000	100.000-300.000	10-20	1
TOTAL	7.000.000		20-40	2

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES O1 – STRENGTHENING RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES OF ENTERPRISES

SO1 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator Name	Indicator Type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Amount of private co-financing (matching funds) mobilised through SO1 instruments	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	410.714	685.714	1.607.143	1.028.571	2.171.429
Number of MSMEs that, with programme support, increased their TRL by at least one level and reached a minimum of TRL 6	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	4	12	16	20	22
Number of innovative concepts validated through the PoC programme	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	6	6	6	7	9
Number of enterprises that, with support from the energy efficiency (EE) programme, introduced innovative solutions to improve energy efficiency and/or energy management	Mid-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	0	15	0	15
Number of beneficiary enterprises that launched at least one additional RDI project after project completion	Mid-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	2	7	11	11
Share of enterprises that, 12 months after the end of support, actively use the introduced innovative solution to improve energy efficiency and/or energy management	Mid-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	0	0	0	≥ 85%
Number of newly employed staff in research, development, and innovation (RDI) in beneficiary enterprises	Mid-term result (Outcome)	N/D	8	12	27	14	31

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator Name	Cumulative Value (2030)
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) provided by private entities	5.903.571 EUR
Number of MSMEs that, with programme support, increased their TRL by at least one level and reached a minimum of TRL 6	74
Number of innovative concepts validated through the PoC programme	34
Number of enterprises that, with programme support, adopted or significantly adapted green technologies	30
Number of beneficiary enterprises that launched at least one additional RDI/innovation project after project completion	31
Number of newly employed staff in research, development, and innovation (RDI) in beneficiary enterprises	92



Double-stranded DNA



SO2: DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF INNOVATION THROUGH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BUSINESS SECTOR AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Objective: To promote cooperation between the business sector and the scientific research community through joint research, development, and innovation projects, including contract research, access to research infrastructure, and the application of scientific research results in the business sector. At the same time, the objective is to encourage knowledge and technology transfer within the business sector, particularly between start-ups, MSMEs, and larger industrial entities, to accelerate the uptake of innovation, digital transformation, and enhance competitiveness.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO2 (2026-2030)

No.	Instrument Name	Indicative Allocation SO2 2026-2030 (EUR)
1	Programme Line for Collaborative Innovation Grants	14.180.000
2	Proof of Innovative Concept Programme for Research Institutions	1.950.000
3	Innovation Voucher Programme	950.000
4	S3 Pilot for Linking Industry, Start-ups and Research	1.200.000
5	Intellectual Property Protection Programme (IP Programme)	195.000
Total Funds		18.475.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – PROGRAMME LINE FOR COLLABORATIVE INNOVATION GRANTS

1. Description of the Instrument

The Collaborative Innovation Grants Programme aims to encourage cooperation between micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), on the one hand, and research and scientific organisations, on the other. The focus of the programme is on the implementation of joint innovation projects aimed at developing innovative products, services, technologies, or processes based on research and development activities.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of this programme scheme is to strengthen the competitiveness of the Montenegrin knowledge-based economy by co-financing the development of innovative products, services, and technologies through a joint approach of the scientific and business sectors, using research and experimental development as a basis. The programme seeks to enhance knowledge and technology transfer between industry and science through the development and implementation of research and development projects that lead to innovative solutions with market potential.

3. Beneficiaries

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in cooperation with research and scientific organisations.

4. Implementing Body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	1.180.000	100.000-200.000	5-11	1
2027.	2.400.000	100.000-300.000	8-24	1
2028.	3.000.000	150.000-300.000	10-20	1
2029.	3.600.000	150.000-300.000	12-24	1
2030.	4.000.000	150.000-300.000	13-26	1
TOTAL	14.180.000		48-105	5

INSTRUMENT 2 – PROOF OF INNOVATIVE CONCEPT PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

1. Description of the Instrument

The Proof of Innovative Concept Programme (Proof of Concept – PoC) is aimed at supporting innovations at an early stage of research, to verify the technical feasibility of a new process, product or technology and assess its potential for future commercial application. The programme covers projects with a high level of technological risk, where it is not yet known whether the proposed solution can be developed into a functional outcome. The PoC result may be positive or negative, and its purpose is to provide a reliable basis for decision-making on further development.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To provide pre-commercial funding for the technical and market validation of innovative ideas and to strengthen the capacities of the private sector and research institutions for research, development and innovation. The programme should demonstrate whether an idea is technically feasible and market-relevant and whether it justifies further investment in its development.

3. Beneficiaries

Research and scientific institutions.

4. Implementing Body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	300.000	20.000-40.000	7-15	1
2027.	300.000	20.000-40.000	7-15	1
2028.	350.000	25.000-50.000	7-14	1
2029.	400.000	25.000-50.000	8-16	1
2030.	600.000	25.000-50.000	12-24	1
TOTAL	1.950.000		41-84	5

INSTRUMENT 3 – INNOVATION VOUCHER PROGRAMME

1. Description of the Instrument

The Innovation Voucher Programme is a simple, fast and efficient financial support scheme aimed at micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), with the objective of increasing the level of innovation of their products and enhancing their market competitiveness by using specialised services provided by research and scientific institutions through contract research, as well as access to research and innovation infrastructure.

2. Objective of the Instrument

Innovation vouchers encourage private enterprises to cooperate with providers of research and development services in order to improve their products, processes and overall competitiveness. They enable faster knowledge transfer and the creation of long-term partnerships between MSMEs, scientific and research organisations and innovation infrastructure. Through access to expert knowledge and specialised resources, enterprises can develop new or improved products, services and technologies, as well as test new technological solutions.

3. Beneficiaries

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

4. Implementing Body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	150.000	10.000	15	1
2028.	200.000	10.000	20	1
2029.	250.000	10.000	25	1
2030.	350.000	10.000	35	1
TOTAL	950.000		95	4

INSTRUMENT 4 – S3 PILOT FOR LINKING INDUSTRY, START-UPS AND RESEARCH

1. Description of the Instrument

The S3 pilot programme connects industrial enterprises, start-ups and research institutions for the joint development and testing of innovative technological solutions under real industrial conditions. Industry defines challenges related to digitalisation, process optimisation and the application of advanced technologies, while start-ups and research teams, through pilot projects lasting up to 3 to 6 months, demonstrate solutions, validate technologies at higher TRL levels and assess their impact on the processes of the industrial partner. This approach enhances the innovation capacity of industry, strengthens the market relevance of start-ups and promotes the practical application of scientific research results.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To encourage cooperation between industry, start-ups and the research sector through addressing concrete technological and production challenges. The programme aims to accelerate the deployment of advanced digital solutions, increase the efficiency and competitiveness of industrial processes, and enable rapid validation of innovations in real operational environments. In addition, the objective is to empower start-ups through access to industrial settings and real market needs, and to promote the transfer of scientific and technological knowledge to industry.

3. Beneficiaries

Industrial enterprises, start-ups, and/or scientific and research institutions.

4. Implementing Body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026–2030)

Godina	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	N/P	0	0
2027.	200.000	20.000-40.000	5-10	1
2028.	200.000	20.000-40.000	5-10	1
2029.	400.000	20.000-40.000	10-20	1
2030.	400.000	20.000-40.000	10-20	1
TOTAL	1.200.000		30-60	4

INSTRUMENT 5 – INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION PROGRAMME (IP PROGRAMME)

1. Description of the Instrument

The IP Programme supports innovators in protecting their inventions and professionally preparing them for market entry by addressing the most common financial and technical barriers. The programme covers the preparation and submission of national, international and European patent applications (PCT, EPO), as well as prototype development, laboratory testing, patent analyses and technical reports.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To strengthen the capacities of innovators, researchers and companies in the field of intellectual property protection, thereby increasing their competitiveness and the commercial value of their solutions. At the same time, the programme aims to reduce the costs and technical barriers associated with IP protection and to raise awareness and knowledge of patent procedures, contributing to a higher number of registered innovations at national and international level.

3. Beneficiaries

Innovators, inventors, academic teams, start-ups, MSMEs and research groups seeking to protect their products, technologies, processes or industrial designs. The programme is open to both natural and legal persons, including spin-off companies and innovative enterprises, with a particular focus on projects with high technological potential and prospects for international application.

4. Implementing Body

Technology Transfer Office – Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.

5. Annual Calls Plan and Indicative Contracted Budgets (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries	Planirani pozivi
(min-max)	Planned Calls	1.000–10.000	3–30	1
2027	30.000	1.000–10.000	3–30	1
2028	40.000	1.000–10.000	4–40	1
2029	45.000	1.000–10.000	4–45	1
2030	50.000	1.000–10.000	5–50	1
TOTAL	195,000	5,000–50,000	19–195	5

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO2 – DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF INNOVATION THROUGH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE BUSINESS SECTOR AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

SO2 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) mobilised through SO2 instruments	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	295.000	650.000	800.000	1.000.000	1.100.000
Number of SMEs that, with the support of the collaborative grants programme, increased the TRL of their solution to at least TRL 6 or achieved the same level by applying the solution	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	3	7	16	18	20
Number of innovative concepts validated through the PoC programme	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	6	6	6	7	8
Total amount of approved funds through innovation vouchers	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	150.000	200.000	250.000	350.000
Number of new jobs in R&D and highly qualified positions at beneficiaries	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	12	20	20	23	26
Number of beneficiaries that initiated at least one additional RDI/innovation project after project completion	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	0	6	15	20	25
Number of S3 pilot projects in which, during piloting, the technology readiness level (TRL) increased by two or more levels	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	N/P	6	6	11	11
Number of S3 pilot solutions that the industrial partner continued to use and scale after completion of the pilot	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/P	N/P	2	2	5	5
Number of developed prototypes and laboratory tests related to IP applications (IP programme)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	7	7	9	10	11
Number of patent analyses and technical reports (IP programme)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	17	17	22	24	28
Number of approved (registered) IP rights applications (IP programme)	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	5	5	7	7	8

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator name	Cumulative value (2030)
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) provided by business entities	3.845.000 EUR
Number of SMEs that, with the support of the collaborative grants programme, increased the TRL of their solution by at least one level or achieved at least TRL 6	64
Number of innovative concepts validated through the PoC programme	33
Number of new jobs in R&D and highly qualified positions at beneficiaries (collaborative grants, PoC programme)	101
Number of beneficiaries that initiated at least one additional RDI/innovation project after project completion	66
Total amount of approved funds through innovation vouchers	950.000 EUR
Number of S3 pilot projects in which, during piloting, the technology readiness level (TRL) increased by one or more levels	34
Number of S3 pilot solutions that the industrial partner continued to use or scale after completion of the pilot	14
Number of developed prototypes and laboratory tests related to IP applications (IP programme)	44
Number of patent analyses and technical reports (IP programme)	108
Number of approved (registered) IP rights originating from supported applications (IP programme)	32





SO3: ENHANCEMENT OF THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM AND SUPPORT FOR THE GROWTH OF STARTUPS AND MSMEs

Objective: To develop a strong, sustainable, and interconnected innovation and startup ecosystem in Montenegro that provides continuous support to young people, researchers, teams, and innovative enterprises from early-stage ideation and the acquisition of basic entrepreneurial skills, through problem and solution validation, prototype development, incubation and (pre) acceleration, to business internationalisation and the attraction of private investment in research, development, and innovation, to increase the number of successful startups, accelerate the commercialisation of innovations, and strengthen the competitiveness of the Montenegrin economy.

Specific objectives and indicative allocations under SO3 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO3
2026–2030 (EUR)	SO3.1	1.019.000
2	SO3.2	3.900.000
3	SO3.3	13.150.000
4	SO3.4	17.593.000
	Total allocation	35,662,000

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.1 – STRENGTHENING EARLY-STAGE IDEATION AND BASIC ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

Objective: Through structured early-stage ideation instruments, to enable students, researchers, and other interested innovators to develop and test their initial innovative ideas and to acquire key entrepreneurial skills.

Instruments and indicative allocations under SO3.1 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO3.1
2026–2030 (EUR)	Startup Camp for Students	183.000
2	SkillsUp	350.000
3	BIT Problem First	36.000
4	i4ME Hub	450.000
	Total allocation	1.019.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – STARTUP CAMP FOR STUDENTS

1. Description of the Instrument

The Startup Camp is a six-day programme for students in which they, working in teams with the support of mentors and entrepreneurs, develop innovative business ideas from problem identification to the final pitch presented to a jury. The programme covers design thinking, idea validation, the Lean Canvas methodology, commercialisation, sources of financing, and familiarisation with the innovation ecosystem of Montenegro. Eligible costs may include lecturers' and mentors' fees, logistics and technical support, promotion, basic participant costs, and awards for the best teams.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the Startup Camp is to empower students to enter innovative entrepreneurship through practical education, the development and validation of business ideas, the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills, and networking with stakeholders of Montenegro's innovation ecosystem, while encouraging creativity, interdisciplinary cooperation, and networking aimed at forming high-quality startup teams.

3. Beneficiaries

Students.

4. Implementing body

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min-max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/ Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	30.000	N/P	20-25	1
2027.	33.000	N/P	20-25	1
2028.	36.000	N/P	20-25	1
2029.	40.000	N/P	20-25	1
2030.	44.000	N/P	20-25	1
TOTAL	183.000		100-125	5

INSTRUMENT 2 – SKILLSUP

1. Description of the Instrument

SkillsUp is an intensive programme that supports individuals and teams in transforming innovative ideas into clearly defined, validated, and market-oriented concepts through Lean Startup and Design Thinking methodologies (including business model development, customer mapping, basic market validation, low-complexity prototyping, and presentation skills). The programme places particular emphasis on supporting young people in their initial steps in innovation and entrepreneurship, providing a safe environment for idea testing, and often serves as an entry point to more advanced NTPCG programmes.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the SkillsUp programme is to support the early development of innovative ideas through structured validation of problems, users, market assumptions, and business models, enabling a rapid transition from an initial idea to a clearly defined concept with real market potential. At the same time, the programme develops basic entrepreneurial competences, strengthens teams' capacity to communicate solutions effectively, and prepares them for entry into incubation and acceleration programmes, thereby transforming early-stage concepts into feasible innovation projects.

3. Korisnici

Beneficiaries include young innovators, students, researchers, and teams working on early-stage concepts, as well as individuals without prior entrepreneurial experience but with innovative potential. The programme is intended for those entering the world of innovation who require a structured approach to understanding the market and support in the early stages of development, including unregistered teams, informal groups, and individuals.

4. Implementing body

Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min–max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026	60.000	N/P	25	1-2
2027	65.000	N/P	25	1-2
2028	70.000	N/P	30	1-2
2029	75.000	N/P	30	1-2
2030	80.000	N/P	35	1-2
TOTAL	350.000		145	5-10

INSTRUMENT 3 – BIT PROBLEM FIRST

1. Description of the Instrument

BIT Problem First is a short, intensive programme focused on the identification and validation of real market and societal problems. Through multi-day challenges and workshops, teams go through a structured process of fieldwork, user interviews, and problem analysis in order to develop a realistic and validated problem statement. The programme functions as an advisory and educational instrument in the early stage of the innovation cycle, without direct grant funding, and supports the pre-proof-of-concept phase.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The primary objective of the instrument is to enable participants to learn how to identify and validate real user challenges, thereby building a solid foundation for the development of innovative solutions. In this way, the instrument contributes to the strategic objective of strengthening the innovation culture and encouraging the development of startup ideas that are rooted in real market and societal needs.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include individuals and teams (both formal and informal), students, innovators, young entrepreneurs, and members of the civil society sector, at the earliest stage of considering the launch of an innovative project. The programme is also open to participants without a registered legal entity.

4. Implementing body

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (min–max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	6.000	N/P	5-10	1
2027.	6.000	N/P	5-10	1
2028.	7.000	N/P	5-10	1
2029.	8.000	N/P	5-10	1
2030.	9.000	N/P	5-10	1
TOTAL	36.000		25-50	5

INSTRUMENT 4 – I4ME HUB

1. Description of the Instrument

The i4ME Hub brings together young researchers, startup enthusiasts, and creative teams seeking to develop innovative concepts. Through expert support, thematic workshops, coaching sessions, mini-hackathons, and consultations, the programme helps participants better understand problems, define users, test ideas, and assess the sustainability of solutions. The focus is on early validation and the shaping of clearly defined innovation projects. The objective of the i4ME Hub is to strengthen the creative, technical, and entrepreneurial potential of young people, contribute to the professionalisation of the startup ecosystem, and create a high-quality pipeline of projects ready for further development.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To strengthen the creative, technical, and entrepreneurial potential of young innovators through a structured process for the development of innovative concepts, within an environment that encourages creativity, experimentation, and early validation of ideas based on real market needs. The programme contributes to the professionalisation of the startup ecosystem by developing clearly defined, validated, and technically feasible projects ready for further development (ideation and early validation phases).

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the programme include young researchers, startup enthusiasts, students, and teams from the academic community who have an initial technical or creative idea and wish to further develop it into an innovation concept.

4. Implementing body

Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Allocation of Grant Funding (EUR) per Year	Grant Amount per Project (min–max, EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026	90.000	N/P	12–18	1
2027	90.000	N/P	12–18	1
2028	90.000	N/P	12–18	1
2029	90.000	N/P	12–18	1
2030	90.000	N/P	12–18	1
TOTAL	450.000		60–90	5

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.1 – STRENGTHENING EARLY-STAGE IDEATION AND BASIC ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.2 – INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR EARLY-STAGE STARTUPS

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of participants in early-stage innovation development programmes	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	71	71	76	76	81
Number of structured early-stage innovation projects developed through these programmes	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	21	21	22	22	24
Number of delivered educational and mentoring workshops/sessions within early-stage innovation development programmes	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	27	30	33	35	38
Share of innovation projects from these programmes entering prototyping/MVP programmes	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	10%	12%	15%	18%	20%

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of participants in early-stage innovation development programmes	375
Number of structured early-stage innovation projects developed through these programmes	110
Number of delivered educational and mentoring workshops/sessions within early-stage innovation development programmes	163
Share of innovation projects from these programmes entering prototyping/MVP programmes	20%

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.2 – INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR EARLY-STAGE STARTUPS

Objective: To strengthen the startup and innovation community at the early stage of development through an integrated package of financial and mentoring programmes (Early-Stage Startup Support Programme, BIT IdeaLab, ProtoBIT, and Mentoring Programmes for Entrepreneurs), enabling the validation of problems and solutions, the development of innovative concepts, prototypes/MVPs and business models, the reduction of risks related to further product development, and the preparation of teams for incubation, acceleration, and access to additional sources of financing.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO3.2 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO3.2 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Early-Stage Startup Support Programme	3.500.000
2	BIT IdeaLab	80.000
3	ProtoBIT	120.000
4	Mentoring Programmes for Entrepreneurs	200.000
	Total allocation	3,900,000

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO3.2 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO3.2 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Early-Stage Startup Support Programme	3.500.000
2	BIT IdeaLab	80.000
3	ProtoBIT	120.000
4	Mentoring Programmes for Entrepreneurs	200.000
Total allocation		3.900.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – EARLY-STAGE STARTUP DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

1. Description of the Instrument

The programme is designed to support promising teams aiming to validate their business ideas by confirming their proposed solutions and demonstrating the potential of a new product, service, process, or technology through the development of a first prototype or a minimum viable product (MVP).

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enhance the startup ecosystem in Montenegro by fostering the growth of existing startups and the development of new startup enterprises. The programme supports innovative projects with development potential that offer market-sustainable solutions or contribute to addressing societal challenges, including areas of smart specialisation. The programme provides financial and mentoring support in order to strengthen capacities, competitiveness, and the further development of startups.

3. Beneficiaries

Teams composed of two to five members, as well as startup enterprises not older than two years.

4. Implementing body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative contracted budgets (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	400.000	40.000	10-12	1
2027.	500.000	40.000	13-15	1
2028.	700.000	50.000	14-18	1
2029.	900.000	50.000	18-25	1
2030.	1.000.000	50.000	20-30	1
TOTAL	3.500.000		75-100	5

INSTRUMENT 2 – BIT IDEALAB

1. Description of the Instrument

BIT IdeaLab is a programme that enables teams, following problem validation through the Problem First approach, to develop solutions in the form of innovative concepts. Over a period of four to six weeks, participants undergo training and mentoring aimed at developing an MVP plan, a basic business model, market validation, and preparation for presentations to investors or programmes in subsequent stages of development. The programme supports the early-stage development and testing of ideas (proof-of-concept phase).

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enable startup teams to work in a structured and intensive manner on the development and validation of their solutions. The instrument contributes to the specific strategic objective of increasing the number of validated innovation concepts ready for further development and incubation.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include teams that have successfully completed Problem First programmes or have a clearly defined and validated idea for addressing a market problem. The target group includes students, startup teams, young entrepreneurs, and innovators, without the obligation to be registered as legal entities at the initial stage.

4. Implementing body

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	15.000	N/P	10–15	1
2027.	15.000	N/P	10–15	1
2028.	15.000	N/P	10–15	1
2029.	16.000	N/P	10–15	1
2030.	19.000	N/P	10–15	1
TOTAL	80.000		50-75	5

INSTRUMENT 3 – PROTOBIT

1. Description of the Instrument

ProtoBIT is a micro pre-seed support programme of the Tehnopolis Business Incubator, designed to enable rapid testing and validation of innovations through small-scale grants and expert mentoring. The programme finances the experimental development of prototypes and MVPs, with grant amounts ranging from EUR 500–1,000 per team in the first two years and increasing to EUR 1,500–3,000 in subsequent years, based on clearly defined project tasks and an accelerated application and evaluation procedure. ProtoBIT covers the experimental development phase, enabling startup teams to verify market and technical hypotheses through concrete testing activities prior to further development or scaling of solutions.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enable startups to carry out a rapid and practical verification of innovation concepts, thereby reducing the risks associated with further unvalidated product development.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include startup teams and young innovative enterprises that are members (tenants) of the Tehnopolis Business Incubator, at the prototype development or concept testing stage. The instrument is internally oriented and intended exclusively for incubated startup teams within the BIT community (primarily micro-enterprises and informal teams already participating in BIT programmes), ready to conduct experimental validation of their ideas.

4. Implementing body

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	15.000	500–1.500	10–15	2
2027.	15.000	500–1.500	10–15	2
2028.	30.000	1.500–3.000	10–15	2
2029.	30.000	1.500–3.000	10–15	2
2030.	30.000	1.500–3.000	10–15	2
TOTAL	120.000		50-75	10

INSTRUMENT 4 – MENTORING PROGRAMMES FOR ENTREPRENEURS

1. Description of the Instrument

The mentoring programme serves as an entry point for teams with innovative projects requiring strategic guidance, feedback, and access to networks of national and international experts. The programme is practical, flexible, and personalised, with a focus on business model development, market and early user validation, team strengthening, presentation and investment readiness skills, and preparation for (pre-)incubation programmes. Mentors are drawn from industry, technology companies, investment funds, academia, and the startup ecosystem.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enhance the competences of innovators and startup teams through strategic guidance and support for the rapid and sustainable development of innovative projects. The programme provides participants with access to industry expertise, supports idea validation, business model improvement, and capacity-building for growth. It establishes a professional support network that increases entrepreneurial confidence, encourages participation in more advanced programmes, and contributes to both the quality and the number of early-stage startups.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include innovators, early-stage entrepreneurs, startup teams, and MSMEs at the beginning of their innovation activities, including students, young researchers, and teams working on first prototypes. The instrument is open to both registered and unregistered teams with a valid

innovative idea and a clear motivation for learning and development, with a focus on accessibility and encouraging new participants to enter the innovation ecosystem.

4. Implementing body

Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/ Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026	36.000	1.000–2.500	14-36	1
2027	38.000	1.000–2.500	15-38	1
2028	40.000	1.000–2.500	16-40	1
2029	42.000	1.000–2.500	16-42	1
2030	44.000	1.000–2.500	17-44	1
TOTAL	200.000		82-200	5

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.2 – INTEGRATED SUPPORT FOR EARLY-STAGE STARTUPS

SO3.2 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Total number of entrepreneurial teams/startups supported through programmes	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	63	67	70	78	82
Percentage of teams reporting progress in TRL levels during project implementation	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	45%	50%	55%	60%	60%
Number of teams that defined or improved their business model during the programme	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	28	30	32	36	38
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) mobilised through SO3 instruments (EUR)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	44.444	55.556	77.778	100.000	111.111
Number of engaged mentors (national and international)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	20	25	30	35	40
Number of teams that, following SO3 instruments, enter incubation/ acceleration programmes or apply for grant funding	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	7	9	10	12	15
Share of active teams three years after programme completion (%)	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	N/P	N/P	30%	35%

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator	Cumulative value (2030)
Total number of entrepreneurial teams/startups supported through all programmes	360
Percentage of teams reporting progress in TRL levels during project implementation	60%
Number of teams that defined or improved their business model during the programme	164
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) mobilised through SO3 instruments (EUR)	388.889
Number of engaged mentors (national and international)	150
Number of teams that, following SO3 instruments, enter incubation/acceleration programmes or apply for grant funding	53
Share of active teams three years after programme completion (%)	35%

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.3 – ACCELERATION, COMMERCIALISATION, AND SCALING

Objective: To enable accelerated growth and internationalisation of innovative, knowledge-based startups and companies through an integrated package of acceleration and internationalisation programmes (Regional Accelerator for Sustainability and AI, LAUNCH@me, BOOSTmeUP, and MGA), supporting the transition from validated prototypes/MVPs to business scaling in regional and global markets, as well as the attraction of investment to Montenegro.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO3.3 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO3.3
2026–2030 (EUR)	Regional Accelerator for Sustainability and AI	5.500.000
2	LAUNCH@me (Academic Startup Programme)	3.000.000
3	BOOSTmeUP	650.000
4	Montenegro Goes Abroad	4.000.000
	Total allocation	13.150.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – REGIONAL ACCELERATOR FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND AI

1. Description of the Instrument

The Regional Accelerator for Sustainability and AI is a pre-seed and seed accelerator designed to provide support to technology companies at an early stage of development with high growth potential. The programme is implemented by an international company selected through a public procurement procedure, while the Innovation Fund of Montenegro oversees programme implementation and ensures its alignment with the strategic priorities of the national innovation ecosystem.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the instrument is to enable rapid growth of national startups, as well as startups from the region seeking to relocate to Montenegro and develop their operations in the country, through structured support processes. The accelerator is not only designed to support the development of pre-seed and seed-stage startups from Montenegro but also to attract innovative companies from the region that wish to continue their growth and development in Montenegro, leveraging the available support mechanisms and resources. In this way, it contributes to the development of a holistic innovation ecosystem, enhances the competitiveness of the national economy, and creates new opportunities for attracting foreign investment.

3. Beneficiaries

Startup enterprises.

4. Implementing body

The programme is implemented by a company selected through a public procurement procedure, while the Innovation Fund of Montenegro oversees programme implementation.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	1.500.000	N/P	10-20	1
2027.	0	N/P	0	0
2028.	1.500.000	N/P	10-20	1
2029.	0	N/P	0	0
2030.	2.500.000	N/P	10-20	1
TOTAL	5.500.000		30-60	3

INSTRUMENT 2 – LAUNCH@ME (ACADEMIC STARTUP PROGRAMME)

1. Description of the Instrument

LAUNCH@me connects science and entrepreneurship by transforming high-quality research into sustainable, globally competitive startups and by encouraging the academic community to engage in the commercialisation of innovation. The programme is structured into three phases: pre-incubation (selection of market-relevant research results and team formation), incubation (development of innovative prototypes/MVPs with the support of laboratories and mentors), and commercialisation and scaling (market entry, access to investors, and growth model).

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the LAUNCH@me programme is to promote the commercialisation of knowledge from the academic and research community through the development of sustainable startups based on research results. The programme strengthens the culture of innovation at universities, fosters the development of interdisciplinary teams, and accelerates the transformation of research into market-ready products by providing infrastructure, mentoring, and expert support for the development of prototypes, MVPs, and solutions with global application potential.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include students, researchers, academic teams, and university spin-offs that transform research results with commercialisation potential into technology, products, or services. The instrument covers both registered and unregistered academic teams and innovation-driven enterprises originating from universities.

4. Implementing body

Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/ Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026	600.000	20.000–80.000	8–12	1
2027	600.000	20.000–80.000	8–12	1
2028	600.000	20.000–80.000	8–12	1
2029	600.000	20.000–80.000	8–12	1
2030	600.000	20.000–80.000	8–12	1
TOTAL	3.000.000		40–60	5

INSTRUMENT 3– BOOSTMEUP

1. Description of the Instrument

BoostMeUp is a national pre-acceleration programme and flagship platform for the accelerated development of promising startup teams and ideas in Montenegro. The programme lasts approximately three months and combines financial support (grant funding for selected teams), intensive education, mentoring support, access to specialised training, and networking with investors and experts. Activities include structured workshops and coaching sessions, individual mentoring, and the promotion of the best ideas, culminating in a public event - the Montenegro Pitching Competition - where teams present their Minimum Viable Product (MVP/ MMP) to investors and the general public. BoostMeUp directly addresses the pre-acceleration and commercialisation phase of innovation, supporting startups in transitioning from prototype development to market-ready products.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the BoostMeUp programme is to accelerate the development of innovative products towards market entry and to increase startups' chances of securing investment. Through this instrument, a national base of successful early-stage companies is built, contributing to the achievement of specific strategic objectives related to the commercialisation of innovation, the growth of technology-based firms, and the strengthening of the competitiveness of the national startup ecosystem in international markets.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include innovative early-stage startup teams (micro and small enterprises or newly formed teams) from Montenegro with scaling potential.

4. Implementing body

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	130.000	1.000–22000	15–23	
2027.	130.000	1.000–22000	15–23	
2028.	130.000	1.000–22000	15–23	
2029.	130.000	1.000–22000	15–23	
2030.	130.000	1.000–22000	15–23	
TOTAL	650.000		75–115	

INSTRUMENT 4 – MONTENEGRO GOES ABROAD (MGA)

1. Description of the Instrument

The MGA programme provides strategic support to innovative companies seeking to enter international markets. It connects national innovations with global demand by facilitating access to international investors, technology partners, industry events, trade fairs, and exchange programmes. Companies undergo a personalised internationalisation process that includes market entry strategy development, product validation, and preparation for investor engagement in the EU, the United States, and the region, thereby supporting their growth and strengthening their positioning within global value chains.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To increase the global visibility of Montenegrin innovative companies and enable their direct access to international markets, partners, and investors. The programme provides strategic and financial support to companies ready for internationalisation, with a focus on exports, business scaling, and investment attraction, while strengthening the international image of Montenegrin innovation through participation in international trade fairs, conferences, and B2B events.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include innovative micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, growth-stage startups, technology companies, and teams with a validated product and a clear market strategy, particularly those with ambitions to enter international markets. The programme is open to enterprises registered in the Register of Innovation Activities and those with demonstrated innovation capacity.

4. Implementing body

Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026	800.000	10.000–50.000	10–15	1
2027	800.000	10.000–50.000	10–15	1
2028	800.000	10.000–50.000	10–15	1
2029	800.000	10.000–50.000	10–15	1
2030	800.000	10.000–50.000	10–15	1
TOTAL	4.000.000		50–75	5

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.3 – ACCELERATION, COMMERCIALISATION AND SCALING

SO3.3 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of supported startups/teams/companies per year	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	57	42	57	42	57
Number of pitching/investment events and investor presentations	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	6	6	7	7	8
Number of startups/teams/companies that successfully completed programmes	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	43	32	43	32	43
Share of supported beneficiaries that secured external financing (%)	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	N/P	N/P	N/P	30%

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of supported startups/teams/companies per year	255
Number of pitching/investment events and investor presentations	34
Number of startups/teams/companies that successfully completed programmes	193
Share of supported startups/teams/companies that secured external financing by 2030 (%)	30%

SO3.4 – DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MENTORING

Objective: To improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility of innovation support instruments through the digitalisation of processes (BITKO and AI Startup School), the development of a verified mentoring network, post-incubation support (alumni programme), and tax incentives for private investment in research and innovation.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO3.4 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO3.4 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Digitalisation of support instruments (BITKO and AI Startup School)	13,000
2	Verified mentoring network	160,000
3	Post-incubation support (alumni programme)	20,000
4	Tax incentives for private investment in research and innovation	17,400,000
Total allocation		17,593,000

INSTRUMENT 1 – DIGITALISATION OF SUPPORT INSTRUMENTS (BITKO AND AI STARTUP SCHOOL)

1. Description of the Instrument

The digitalisation of support instruments comprises two BIT initiatives based on digital technologies. BITKO is a software platform for managing public calls and support programmes, automating application submission, evaluation, contracting, monitoring, and reporting, thereby increasing transparency and efficiency in grant allocation. The AI Startup School is a chatbot-based information tool and an online educational programme offering courses and mentoring for the development of entrepreneurial and technical skills, accessible to teams and individuals across the country. Together, BITKO and the AI Startup School cover all phases of innovation development - from ideation and proof of concept to commercialisation.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective is to enhance the efficiency, accessibility, and quality of innovation support services through process digitalisation and education. The BITKO platform reduces administrative barriers and increases transparency, while the AI Startup School contributes to the development of human capital in key areas relevant to startup development.

3. Beneficiaries

BITKO is used by startups, MSMEs, research organisations, and other innovators to submit digital applications to BIT calls and projects. The AI Startup School is intended for entrepreneurs, startup teams, and young innovators from Montenegro, providing online learning in technology and startup business development.

4. Implementing body

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/ Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	2.000	N/P	2000	Continuous
2027.	2.500	N/P	3000	Continuous
2028.	2.500	N/P	3500	Continuous
2029.	3.000	N/P	4000	Continuous
2030.	3.000	N/P	4100	Continuous
TOTAL	13.000		16.600	

INSTRUMENT 2 – VERIFIED MENTORING NETWORK

1. Description of the Instrument

The Verified Mentoring Network represents a national mechanism of expert support that provides startups, innovative companies, and teams with year-round access to verified mentors and high-quality educational modules. The instrument combines structured content with practical expertise and targeted mentoring aligned with the clearly identified needs of beneficiaries. The Innovation Fund of Montenegro manages the mentor verification process, standardisation, and coordination, while the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro and the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis assess startup needs, organise activities, and provide feedback through continuous evaluation of mentor quality.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the instrument is to ensure consistent, high-quality, and professional mentoring support for startups, innovative MSMEs, and teams developing innovative ideas through a verified network of experts, to increase the efficiency and success rate of their projects, and to strengthen the overall capacity of the innovation ecosystem through standardised education, individual mentoring, and coordinated cooperation among key institutions.

3. Beneficiaries

Startups, innovative MSMEs, and teams.

4. Implementing body

Innovation Fund of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro and the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative contracted budget (2026-2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	40.000	N/P	20-40	Continuous
2028.	40.000	N/P	20-40	Continuous
2029.	40.000	N/P	20-40	Continuous
2030.	40.000	N/P	20-40	Continuous
TOTAL	160.000		80-160	

INSTRUMENT 3 – POST-INCUBATION (ALUMNI PROGRAMME)

1. Description of the Instrument

Post-incubation (alumni programme) represents the continuation of support for startups following the completion of incubation and acceleration programmes. Former BIT tenants are provided with ongoing advisory and infrastructure support, including mentoring, access to resources such as co-working space, laboratories, shared equipment and licences, as well as inclusion in a network of events and promotional activities. The support is not time-limited and is tailored to the early growth and scaling phases of startups.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To ensure the sustainable growth and development of innovative enterprises beyond the completion of initial support programmes, while enabling alumni teams to transfer knowledge and experience to new startups. Long-term expert support and networking increase startup survival rates and readiness for expansion into new markets, thereby strengthening overall innovation activity and the sustainability of the startup ecosystem.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include alumni startups of the Business Incubator - innovative companies and teams that have completed BIT incubation or acceleration programmes, primarily micro and small enterprises, including academic spin-offs. The programme is intended for former and existing BIT tenants already integrated into the Tehnopolis innovation community.

4. Implementing body

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre Tehnopolis.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Estimated Number of Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	2000	60-70	Continuous
2027.	3000	60-80	Continuous
2028.	4000	60-90	Continuous
2029.	5000	60-90	Continuous
2030.	6000	60-100	Continuous
TOTAL	20.000	300–430	

INSTRUMENT 4 – TAX INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument encourages the private sector to finance innovation and research projects by providing tax incentives in the form of corporate income tax reductions for donations directed to registered innovation and research entities.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To increase the volume of private investment in research, development, and innovation by incentivising companies to allocate a portion of their profits to startups, spin-offs, research organisations, and programmes of the Innovation Fund, thereby strengthening the innovation system and reinforcing linkages between industry and science.

3. Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include legal entities performing innovation activities, legal entities providing donations to innovation or research activities, natural persons providing donations to innovation or research activities, and natural persons performing innovation activities.

Final beneficiaries of the funds include:

- startups and spin-offs registered in the Register of Innovation Activities;
- research organisations registered in the Register of Licensed Research Organisations and/or the Register of Innovation Activities;
- privately owned legal entities registered in the Register of Innovation Activities that reinvest profits into innovation programmes or projects involving entities registered in the Register of Innovation Activities;
- the Innovation Fund, which allocates donated funds to innovation programmes and projects.

4. Implementing body

Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.

5. Annual calls plan and indicative budget (2026–2030)

Year	Public financial framework for tax incentives for investment in research and innovation	Planned Calls
2026.	2.900.000	1
2027.	3.250.000	1
2028.	3.500.000	1
2029.	3.750.000	1
2030.	4.000.000	1
TOTAL	17.400.000	5

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO3.4 – DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND MENTORING

SO3.4 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of startups, innovative MSMEs, and teams using the Verified Mentoring Network during the year	Immediate result (Output)	0	0	30	30	30	30
Number of beneficiaries of support instruments (BITKO, AI Startup School, Verified Mentoring Network, alumni programme)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	2065	2500	2705	3010	3055
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) mobilised through tax incentives for investment in research and innovation (EUR)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	2.900.000	3.250.000	3.500.000	3.750.000	4.000.000
Share of beneficiaries of support instruments remaining active three years after participation (%)	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	N/P	N/P	30%	35%
Number of newly created jobs in R&D and highly qualified positions among beneficiaries of tax incentives	Intermediate result (Outcome)	N/D	10	15	20	25	30

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of startups, innovative MSMEs, and teams that used the Verified Mentoring Network during the year	120
Number of beneficiaries of support instruments (BITKO, AI Startup School, Verified Mentoring Network, alumni programme)	13.335
Total amount of private co-financing (matching funds) mobilised through tax incentives for investment in research and innovation (EUR)	17.400.000
Share of beneficiaries of support instruments remaining active three years after participation (%)	35%
Number of newly created jobs in R&D and highly qualified positions among beneficiaries of tax incentives	100





SO4: FOSTERING INNOVATION TO ADDRESS SOCIETAL CHALLENGES AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICES

Objective: To address key societal and public challenges and to improve the quality, efficiency, transparency, and user-centricity of public services through the development, testing, and wide-scale deployment of GovTech solutions. This will be achieved by strengthening the capacities of public institutions and establishing collaborative ecosystems with innovative enterprises, research organisations, and local communities, leveraging open public data, innovation challenges, GovTech solution competitions, as well as regulatory sandboxes as safe environments for testing new technologies and models.

INSTRUMENTI I INDIKATIVNE VRIJEDNOSTI U OKVIRU SO4 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO4 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Programme for financing innovation in the public sector (GovTech Programme)	14.000.000
2	BIT Social Problem First	35.000
Total allocation		14.035.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – GOVTECH

1. Description of the Instrument

The GovTech programme for financing innovation in the public sector aims to improve the efficiency and quality of public services for citizens and businesses by addressing key challenges faced by public institutions for which no market-ready solutions currently exist. The programme has been developed in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration to clearly define Government priorities and avoid overlaps. It is implemented in two phases: public institutions propose challenges, and the Innovation Fund launches a call through which companies and research organisations submit innovative technological solutions.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of the instrument is to encourage public institutions to adopt modern technologies and innovative approaches in order to enhance the quality, accessibility, and efficiency of public services. The programme enables the public sector to test and deploy solutions tailored to the needs of citizens and businesses, while allowing technology companies and research organisations to develop and validate solutions for the public sector, thereby strengthening cooperation between public administration, the private sector, and the research community.

3. Beneficiaries

Public sector institutions (ministries, administrative bodies, public agencies, local self-government units, and other public institutions) that submit challenges and participate in the development and testing of innovative solutions under the programme.

4. Implementing Body

The Innovation Fund of Montenegro, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration and other competent public sector institutions, for the purpose of identifying challenges, defining priorities, launching public calls, and contracting projects.

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	2.000.000	100.000-200.000	10-20	1
2027.	2.000.000	100.000-200.000	10-20	1
2028.	3.000.000	100.000-200.000	15-30	1
2029.	3.000.000	100.000-200.000	15-30	1
2030.	4.000.000	100.000-200.000	20-40	1
TOTAL	14.000.000		70-140	5

INSTRUMENT 2 – BIT SOCIAL PROBLEM FIRST

1. Description of the Instrument

BIT Social Problem First is a specialised version of the Problem First programme, focused on the identification and understanding of societal challenges with the potential for solutions that generate strong social impact. Through interdisciplinary teamwork and the application of user-centred design methodologies, participants develop validated problem statements that can serve as a foundation for social startups. The programme serves as an entry point into the Tehnopolis ecosystem and subsequent development or incubation phases, and provides top-performing teams with mentoring support, recommendations for further programmes (e.g. SIA, GovTech), and connections with relevant organisations, institutions, and corporations interested in addressing these challenges.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective of this instrument is to foster the development of social innovation by empowering teams to understand and address key community needs. The programme contributes to a specific strategic objective related to promoting innovation in addressing social and environmental challenges.

3. Beneficiaries

Informal and formal groups of citizens, students, teams from the civil society sector, institutions, and local communities interested in developing social innovations, without the requirement of prior formal registration.

4. Implementing Body

The Tehnopolis Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre.

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	6.000	N/P	5–10	1
2027.	6.000	N/P	5–10	1
2028.	6.000	N/P	5–10	1
2029.	8.000	N/P	5–10	1
2030.	9.000	N/P	5–10	1
TOTAL	35.000		25–50	5

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE SO4 – FOSTERING INNOVATION TO ADDRESS SOCIETAL CHALLENGES AND IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICES

SO4 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of public institutions and community teams involved in innovation programmes addressing public and societal challenges	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	15	20	25	30	35
Number of financed and/or piloted innovative GovTech solutions	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	15	15	23	23	30
Percentage of innovative solutions integrated into the regular operations of public institutions or communities at least 12 months after project completion	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	N/P	25%	N/P	30%

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator name	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of public institutions and community teams involved in innovation programmes addressing public and societal challenges	125
Number of financed and/or piloted innovative GovTech solutions	106
Percentage of innovative solutions integrated into the regular operations of public institutions or communities at least 12 months after project completion	30%



HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE: DEVELOPMENT OF INNOVATION CULTURE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Objective: To develop an inclusive and sustainable innovation culture by strengthening entrepreneurial and digital skills, promoting science and technology, and fostering collaboration among citizens, young people, and the business sector within innovation processes. The implementation of this horizontal objective creates synergies with Strategic Objectives SO1, SO2, and SO3 through an integrated approach to innovation development, competitiveness, and the popularisation of science, technology, and entrepreneurship as foundations of a competitive and resilient national economy.

Within this objective, the Innovation Fund of Montenegro implements educational programmes in the areas of smart specialisation and activities aimed at strengthening innovation culture, while the Tehnopolis Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre delivers programmes focused on promoting innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship, including Fireside Chats, meetups, Technocast, STEM Lab, Master Classes, makeathons and hackathons, Tech Caravan, programmes for schools in rural areas, Makerfaire, CBCC conferences, and an annual cycle of training for adults (digital marketing, sales, soft skills, and the use of artificial intelligence-based tools).

The indicative level of funding is determined through annual call plans and the work programmes of the Innovation Fund and IPC Tehnopolis, in line with priorities and available budgets, without predefined earmarked allocations at the level of this document, allowing flexibility in the format, intensity, and scope of activities.

PRIORITY AXIS 2: MODERNISATION OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENHANCEMENT OF RESEARCH CAPACITIES

The purpose of Priority Axis 2 is to improve the quality and international visibility of Montenegro's research and innovation system, in alignment with the principles of the European Research Area (ERA). This will be achieved through the development of research infrastructure, strengthening open access and open science, enhancing human resources, and fostering scientific excellence, in order to increase the societal and economic impact of research. At the same time, capacities for collaboration, technology transfer, and knowledge commercialisation will be strengthened, in complementarity with interventions under Priority Axis 1.

INDICATIVE FINANCIAL ALLOCATIONS BY SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 2 (2026–2030)

No.	Specific Objective	Indicative allocation SO 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	SO1	7.550.000
2	SO2	8.600.000
3	SO3	21.500.000
4	SO4	3.350.000
Total allocation		41,000,000



SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES (SO) UNDER PRIORITY AXIS 2:

SO1: STRENGTHENING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTEGRATION INTO THE ERA

Objective: To enhance and modernise national research infrastructure, in line with strategic development policies of Montenegro and the European Union, and to ensure adequate utilisation of research capacities and greater visibility of research results. At the same time, to strengthen Montenegro's involvement in pan-European research infrastructures and EU programmes, and to achieve full integration into the European Research Area.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO1 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO1 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Programme for the development, modernisation, and open access to research infrastructure	4.500.000
2	Membership fees for international research infrastructures and bodies	2.550.000
3	Support to national teams for the preparation and implementation of EU projects	500.000
Total allocation		7.550.000

KEY INDICATORS – PRIORITY AXIS 1 (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	Baseline (2025)	Target 2030
Qualified applications submitted to Horizon Europe (accepted for evaluation)	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	101
Scientific excellence and quality of publications – WoS/Scopus	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	120
Participants (doctoral and postdoctoral researchers) who, 12 months after project completion, are employed/engaged in research and development positions in the academic, public, or business sector	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	104
Number of transferred knowledge, methodologies, and technologies to industry after project completion	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	12
Share of research infrastructures (RI) with open access and usage monitoring (%)	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	≥ 80%
Number of doctoral/postdoctoral researchers who completed training/mentoring and/or mobility	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	319
Number of modernised research infrastructures (RI)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	27
Number of foreign research institutions involved in cooperation projects	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	66
Number of doctoral and postdoctoral students/researchers involved in projects	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	328
Number of newly secured international memberships in research infrastructures and relevant bodies	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	3
Number of established collaborations with industry for the development of project results	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	27

Legend: N/D – no data available for 2025 (programmes were not unified nor systematically monitored; 2026 is the first reference year of the new monitoring system).

INSTRUMENT 1 – PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, MODERNISATION AND OPEN USE OF RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument supports the development, modernisation, and functional upgrading of national research infrastructure, with mandatory provision of open and transparent access to research capacities, data, and research results for all relevant stakeholders under equal conditions. Particular emphasis is placed on the application of the FAIR principles and the establishment of open research data systems, thereby increasing the accessibility, interoperability, and reusability of research resources.

The instrument also covers the professionalisation of infrastructure management through clear organisational structures, access policies, and standard operating procedures, as well as the strengthening of institutional cooperation, including collaboration with the business sector, in order to ensure efficient use of research infrastructure. In addition, it serves as preparation for future large-scale projects that may be implemented with the support of European funds and other financial mechanisms.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To ensure modern, efficient, and sustainable research infrastructure capacities that enable high-quality scientific research, promote openness and collaboration, and contribute to the full integration of Montenegro into the European Research Area (ERA).

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	1.500.000	150.000 – 200.000	7 – 10	1
2027.	1.500.000	150.000 – 200.000	7 – 10	1
2028.	1.500.000	150.000 – 200.000	7 – 10	1
2029.	0	0	0	0
2030.	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4.500.000		21 - 30	3

INSTRUMENT 2 – MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND BODIES

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument covers the financing of membership fees for Montenegro's participation in international research infrastructures and scientific bodies of strategic importance, including

pan-European infrastructures organised as European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs), as well as other relevant European and global partnerships. The support enables access to world-class research resources, advanced infrastructure, and international networks, which is of particular importance for small research systems such as Montenegro's.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To ensure access to relevant international research infrastructures and scientific bodies through sustainable financing of membership fees, thereby enhancing research quality, international cooperation, global visibility of the national research community, and the integration of Montenegro into the European and global research landscape.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro, as well as entities from the business, public, and civil society sectors.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budgets (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	430.000	180.000	1	1
2027.	430.000	200.000	0	0
2028.	530.000	200.000	1	1
2029.	530.000	215.000	0	0
2030.	630.000	230.000	1	1
TOTAL	2.550.000	1.025.000	3	3

INSTRUMENT 3 – SUPPORT TO NATIONAL TEAMS FOR THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EU PROJECTS

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument provides financial and expert support to national research teams and institutions in the preparation of project proposals for European Union programmes. The support covers the development of project documentation, formation of consortia and international partnerships, assessment of administrative and technical eligibility requirements for applications, as well as the coverage of project preparation costs.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enhance, in the long term, the competitiveness of Montenegro's research and innovation system by strengthening the capacities of institutions and research teams for active participation in European Union programmes, increasing the quality and success rate of project applications, and ensuring sustainable conditions for project preparation and the early implementation phase of international projects.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro, as well as entities from the business, public, and civil society sectors.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	100.000	do 10.000	10-20	1
2027.	100.000	do 10.000	10-20	1
2028.	100.000	do 10.000	10-20	1
2029.	100.000	do 10.000	10-20	1
2030.	100.000	do 10.000	10-20	1
TOTAL	500.000		50-100	5

SO1 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of modernised research infrastructures (RI)	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	9	9	9	0	0
Number of newly secured international memberships in research infrastructures and relevant scientific bodies	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	1	0	1	0	1
Number of supported project applications to EU programmes	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	13	14	15	16	17
Number of users from the business, research, and public sectors using research infrastructure through open access	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	0	100	130	180
Number of project proposals submitted to Horizon Europe involving at least one beneficiary supported under SO1 (as partner or coordinator) and formally accepted for evaluation	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	11	12	13	14	15

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of modernised research infrastructures (RI)	27
Number of newly secured international memberships in research infrastructures and relevant scientific bodies	3
Number of supported project applications to EU programmes	75
Number of users from the business, research, and public sectors using research infrastructure through open access	410
Number of project proposals submitted to Horizon Europe involving at least one beneficiary supported under SO1 (as partner or coordinator) and formally accepted for evaluation	65





14. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333
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17. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333
18. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333

19. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333
20. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333
21. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333
22. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333
23. A. 333 B. 333 C. 333 D. 333

SO2: DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF HUMAN CAPITAL IN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

Objective: To contribute to the advancement of the research ecosystem through the rejuvenation of the research sector, strengthening research teams, and creating a supportive environment for the development of independent, competent, and internationally recognised researchers. The focus is on enhancing the capacities of early-stage researchers, doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, the development of specialised research, professional, and innovation skills, and support for sustainable research careers. Particular emphasis is placed on mobility and active participation in international research networks in order to strengthen scientific excellence, internationalisation, and the long-term competitiveness of the research community.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO2 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO2 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Doctoral Scholarship Programme	5.000.000
2	Postdoctoral Research for Excellence	3.200.000
3	Short-term Mobility for Researchers	400.000
	Total allocation	8.600.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument represents a grant scheme in the form of scholarships awarded to doctoral students who carry out research projects under the professional supervision of a mentor. The programme enables doctoral candidates, with continuous mentoring support, to develop and implement their own research, participate in international mobility schemes, and establish cooperation with international institutions or partners from the business sector. In this way, doctoral candidates are provided with high-quality conditions for the acquisition of advanced research skills and active involvement in research activities throughout their studies.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To strengthen the research community in Montenegro through the development of a new generation of researchers, by encouraging their international and intersectoral cooperation and increasing the competitiveness of the national science and innovation system. The programme aims to broaden the base of early-stage researchers, strengthen their capacities, enhance links between academia and industry, and contribute to the internationalisation of research activities. An additional objective is to increase the participation of doctoral candidates in the preparation and implementation of projects financed under EU research and innovation programmes.

3. Beneficiaries

Programme beneficiaries may be employed or unemployed individuals, regardless of whether they are engaged in a licensed research organisation; candidates who submit applications jointly with a mentor, confirming mutual interest and the scientific relevance of the project; candidates who have completed study programmes amounting to at least 300 ECTS credits as a prerequisite for enrolment in doctoral studies, and who have achieved a minimum average grade of 8.0 at each level of study individually; as well as candidates whose engagement in the project constitutes an integral part of their doctoral research.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	1.000.000	40.000 – 80.000	12–25	1
2027.	1.000.000	40.000 – 80.000	12–25	1
2028.	1.000.000	40.000 – 80.000	12–25	1
2029.	1.000.000	40.000 – 80.000	12–25	1
2030.	1.000.000	40.000 – 80.000	12–25	1
TOTAL	5.000.000		60 - 125	5

INSTRUMENT 2 – POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE

1. Description of the Instrument

The programme enables postdoctoral researchers, within a period of up to seven years after obtaining a doctoral degree, to develop their own research projects and establish independent research lines and groups at institutions in Montenegro. The programme supports the enhancement of research and professional skills of postdoctoral researchers, the development of international cooperation and mobility, linkages with industry and intersectoral partners, and the implementation of fundamental and applied research of relevance for innovation and the socio-economic development of Montenegro. In this way, conditions are created for the emergence of a new generation of scientific leaders capable of contributing to excellence, internationalisation, and the long-term sustainability of the national research system.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To develop independent, internationally competitive researchers and research groups in Montenegro, strengthen their professional and academic capacities, and promote intersectoral cooperation between academia and industry, thereby contributing to excellence, innovation, and the overall competitiveness of the national research system.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations in Montenegro in which the postdoctoral researcher is employed on a permanent or fixed-term basis, or temporarily engaged (at least for the duration of the project). The postdoctoral researcher acts as the principal investigator of the project, while the host institution provides administrative and research support.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	800.000	70.000 – 90.000	8–11	1
2028.	800.000	70.000 – 90.000	8–11	1
2029.	800.000	70.000 – 90.000	8–11	1
2030.	800.000	70.000 – 90.000	8–11	1
TOTAL	3.200.000		32 - 44	4

INSTRUMENT 3 – SHORT-TERM MOBILITY FOR RESEARCHERS

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument is intended for doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, including researchers up to seven years after obtaining a doctoral degree, to enable short-term mobility of up to three months. The programme supports stays at partner research institutions abroad, as well as at business entities engaged in research and development activities. Mobility enables researchers to acquire new scientific knowledge, methods, and research approaches; gain access to advanced research infrastructure and expertise; build international partnerships and scientific networks; and strengthen links with industry and the intersectoral environment.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enhance the research competences of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers through short-term international mobility. The instrument supports the development of methodological, professional, and innovation skills, strengthens international cooperation with academic and industrial partners engaged in research and development, and facilitates the integration of Montenegrin researchers into global knowledge flows. In the long term, the instrument contributes to improving the quality of scientific research, the internationalisation of the national research community, and the strengthening of its competitiveness within the European Research Area.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations in Montenegro in which doctoral and postdoctoral researchers are employed on a permanent or fixed-term basis, or temporarily engaged.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	80.000	3.000 - 6.000	13 - 26	1
2027.	80.000	3.000 - 6.000	13 - 26	1
2028.	80.000	3.000 - 6.000	13 - 26	1
2029.	80.000	3.000 - 6.000	13 - 26	1
2030.	80.000	3.000 - 6.000	13 - 26	1
TOTAL	400.000		65-130	5

SO2 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator name	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of supported doctoral candidates	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	14	16	17	18	20
Number of supported postdoctoral researchers	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	9	9	11	11
Number of implemented short-term mobilities of early-stage researchers	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	16	17	18	20	20
Number of doctoral/postdoctoral researchers who completed training/mentoring and/or mobility	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	16	30	42	44	49
Number of SO2 participants who, 12 months after completion, remain employed or contractually engaged in research and development positions in the academic, public, or business sector	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	12	13	15	36
Number of scientific publications resulting from projects financed under SO2 and published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) or Scopus	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	2	8	18	22

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator name	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of supported doctoral candidates	85
Number of supported postdoctoral researchers	40
Number of implemented short-term mobilities of early-stage researchers	91
Number of early-stage researchers with enhanced competences (training/mentoring and/or mobility)	181
Number of SO2 participants who, 12 months after completion, remain employed or contractually engaged in research and development (R&I/R&D) positions in the academic, public, or business sector	76
Number of scientific publications resulting from projects financed under SO2 and published in peer-reviewed journals indexed in the Web of Science (WoS) or Scopus	50





SO3: ENHANCEMENT OF SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AND INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY OF THE RESEARCH SYSTEM

Objective: To enhance scientific excellence by promoting high-quality research and strengthening research capacities, alongside increased participation in international research programmes, partnerships, and networks. This objective encompasses the strengthening of international cooperation, as well as the exchange and transfer of knowledge, technologies, and experience with foreign institutions, in order to increase the quality, relevance, and international visibility of Montenegro's scientific outputs.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO3 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO3 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Programme for co-financing national research projects	8.000.000
2	Research grant programme for promoting scientific excellence	6.000.000
3	Cooperation with the scientific diaspora	3.000.000
4	Centres of Excellence	4.500.000
	Total allocation	21.500.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – PROGRAMME FOR CO-FINANCING NATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument is aimed at strengthening the capacities of research teams in Montenegro through support for medium-scale projects that contribute to the advancement of knowledge and skills, research infrastructure, and the organisational capacities of research groups. In this way, a stable framework is established for the development of the research community and for strengthening its participation in national and international programmes. The instrument contributes to enhancing research excellence, sustainability, and competitiveness of research activities, and creates the preconditions for the implementation of high-quality, internationally relevant, and sustainable research.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enhance the capacities of research teams in Montenegro through the development of professional competences, strengthening of research infrastructure, and improvement of organisational capabilities, in order to increase the quality, sustainability, and international competitiveness of research activities and to reinforce participation in national and European programmes.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	2.000.000	120.000 – 200.000	10-17	1
2028.	2.000.000	120.000 – 200.000	10-17	1
2029.	2.000.000	120.000 – 200.000	10-17	1
2030.	2.000.000	120.000 – 200.000	10-17	1
TOTAL	8.000.000		40-68	4

INSTRUMENT 2 – RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME FOR PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument is aimed at strengthening the capacities of research organisations and teams in Montenegro in order to improve the quality, sustainability, and international visibility of research activities. The focus is on promoting scientific excellence, participation in competitive international projects, and the development of results with potential for commercialisation and efficient knowledge transfer to industry and society, thereby strengthening innovation capacities and the competitiveness of the Montenegrin economy.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To enhance scientific excellence and the capacities of research teams in Montenegro through the development of high-quality research, strengthening international and intersectoral cooperation, and fostering partnerships that contribute to the generation of new knowledge, innovations, and results applicable in industry and society. The instrument aims to increase the competitiveness of Montenegrin science, empower research groups, strengthen international visibility, and ensure sustainable preconditions for the implementation of excellent research activities.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	3.000.000	200.000 – 350.000	8 – 15	1
2028.	0	0	0	0
2029.	3.000.000	200.000 – 350.000	8 – 15	1
2030.	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6.000.000		16 – 30	2

INSTRUMENT 3 – COOPERATION WITH THE SCIENTIFIC DIASPORA

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument supports collaborative projects between licensed research organisations in Montenegro and members of the scientific diaspora. The objective of the instrument is to stimulate the transfer of knowledge, methodologies, research practices, and technologies from international environments into the Montenegrin research system, to strengthen international cooperation, and to integrate Montenegrin researchers into global networks of science, innovation, and technological development. Through this instrument, the competences of researchers in Montenegro are enhanced, the participation of the diaspora in the development of national research is encouraged, and the establishment of long-term partnerships with leading international institutions is enabled.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To strengthen the research capacities of Montenegro through active cooperation with the scientific diaspora, enhance the careers of early-stage researchers, increase the international visibility of research teams, and support the preparation of high-quality project proposals for future development, commercialisation, and applications to European research and innovation funding programmes.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	1.500.000	120.000 – 200.000	7-12	1
2028.	0	0	0	0
2029.	1.500.000	120.000 – 200.000	7-12	1
2030.	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	3.000.000		14 – 24	2

INSTRUMENT 4 – CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument is aimed at the establishment, development, and long-term strengthening of leading research centres in Montenegro, bringing together top-level research teams and resources in priority scientific and technological fields. Centres of Excellence represent a key mechanism for enhancing the quality of scientific research in the country, promoting interdisciplinarity, and creating stable research structures capable of addressing Montenegro's strategic development challenges. The instrument provides support for human resource development, acquisition of research infrastructure, implementation of international partnerships, as well as the establishment of sustainable models for governance and financing of research capacities.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To strengthen top-level research capacities in Montenegro through the development of Centres of Excellence that enable a high level of scientific output, international visibility, knowledge and technology transfer, and contribute to the strategic priorities of economic and social development.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/Beneficiaries (min-max)	Planned Calls
2026.	0	0	0	0
2027.	0	0	0	0
2028.	0	0	0	0
2029.	4.500.000	1.000.000 – 1.500.000	3-4	1
2030.	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4.500.000		3 – 4	1

SO3 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of research organisations (RSs) collaborating with at least one other RO	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	15	3	17	4
Number of foreign research institutions involved through SO3	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	26	5	30	5
Number of collaborations with industry established for the development of project results	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	10	2	12	3
Number of doctoral and postdoctoral students/researchers involved in SO3 projects	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	67	28	80	28
Number of doctoral/postdoctoral researchers who completed training/mentoring and/or mobility	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	40	18	60	20
Number of research results with potential application in the industrial sector	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	N/P	N/P	N/P	8
Number of Horizon Europe project proposals with at least one beneficiary supported under SO3 (as partner or coordinator) and formally accepted for evaluation	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	0	15	4	17
Number of scientific publications indexed in Web of Science/Scopus	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	0	25	7	38
Number of early-career researchers with enhanced competences (training/mentoring and/or mobility)	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	0	55	25	65	25
Number of participants who, 12 months after completion, remain employed/engaged in R&I in academia, the public sector or the business sector	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	N/P	N/P	N/P	28
Number of transferred knowledge, methodologies and technologies to industry after project completion	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	N/P	N/P	N/P	12

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of research organisations (ROs) cooperating with at least one other RO	39
Number of foreign research institutions involved through SO3	66
Number of established collaborations with industry for the development of project results	27
Number of doctoral and postdoctoral students/researchers involved in SO3 projects	203
Number of doctoral/postdoctoral researchers who completed training/mentoring and/or mobility	138
Number of research results with potential application in the business sector	8
Number of project proposals submitted to Horizon Europe involving at least one beneficiary supported under SO3 (as partner or coordinator) and formally accepted for evaluation	36
Number of scientific publications indexed in Web of Science/Scopus	70
Number of early-stage researchers with enhanced competences (training/mentoring and/or mobility)	170
Number of participants who, 12 months after completion, remain employed/engaged in R&I/R&D in the academic, public, or business sector	28
Number of transferred knowledge, methodologies, and technologies to industry after project completion	12



SO4: STRENGTHENING APPLIED AND SOCIETALLY BENEFICIAL RESEARCH

Objective: To strengthen applied research that contributes to addressing key societal, economic, and technological challenges, to provide a scientific basis for public policy-making, and to develop solutions beneficial to society, the economy, and the public sector. The objective is to stimulate research that generates knowledge applicable in practice and that can lead to future technological and societal progress, increased efficiency of public services, and evidence-based decision-making.

INSTRUMENTS AND INDICATIVE ALLOCATIONS UNDER SO4 (2026–2030)

No.	Instrument name	Indicative allocation SO4 2026–2030 (EUR)
1	Programme for the development of research ideas and concepts	2.000.000
2	Applied research for societal impact	1.350.000
Total allocation		3.350.000

INSTRUMENT 1 – PROGRAMME FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH IDEAS AND CONCEPTS

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument is aimed at stimulating research in the earliest phases of development of new scientific concepts, approaches, and technologies (TRL 1–2), with the objective of creating initial scientific foundations that may lead to innovative solutions with future application potential. The programme supports high-risk, innovative, and highly conceptual research ideas, as well as research that is not yet ready for prototype development or industrial collaboration, but has the potential to evolve into future technological innovations or to progress to higher TRL levels. The instrument contributes to the creation of a stable research “pipeline”, strengthening the creativity and innovativeness of research teams and supporting the development of concepts that may later serve as a basis for advanced technological development, commercialisation, and participation in EU innovation support programmes.

2. Objective of the Instrument

To stimulate the development of new research ideas and conceptual solutions at the earliest stage of applied research (TRL 1–2), strengthen team capacities for ambitious and high-risk research, and provide a scientific basis for future innovation, technological development, and potential commercial application.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/ Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	-	-	-	-
2027.	600.000	100.000 – 200.000	3-6	1
2028.	600.000	100.000 – 200.000	3-6	1
2029.	800.000	100.000 – 200.000	4-8	1
2030.	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2.000.000		10-20	3

INSTRUMENT 2 – APPLIED RESEARCH FOR SOCIETAL IMPACT

1. Description of the Instrument

The instrument supports applied research aimed at addressing key societal challenges in Montenegro. The focus is on projects that contribute to the improvement of public policies and public services in areas such as healthcare and public health, education, social protection and demographic challenges, environment and climate change, digitalisation of public administration, security and community resilience, social inclusion, and equal access to services. Supported research activities include the development of feasibility analyses and studies, models and algorithms, pilot solutions, evidence-based policy recommendations, interdisciplinary approaches, and solutions that can be directly applied in public policies and practice.

2. Objective of the Instrument

The objective is to ensure that research results are societally beneficial, relevant for the public sector and public policy-making, and oriented towards improving the quality of life of citizens. Specifically, the instrument aims to stimulate the development of applied research that contributes to more effective public policies, modernisation of public services, and the resolution of priority societal challenges, while ensuring that scientific research results are directly useful to society, the public sector, and decision-makers.

3. Beneficiaries

Licensed research organisations from Montenegro.

4. Implementing Body

The Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (MESI).

5. Annual Call Plan and Indicative Budget (2026–2030)

Year	Indicative Amount of Grant Funding per Year (EUR)	Grant Amount per Project (max. EUR)	Estimated Number of Projects/ Beneficiaries (min–max)	Planned Calls
2026.	-	-	-	-
2027.	600.000	100.000 – 200.000	3-6	1
2028.	600.000	100.000 – 200.000	3-6	1
2029.	800.000	100.000 – 200.000	4-8	1
2030.	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2.000.000		10-20	3

SO4 – TARGET INDICATOR VALUES BY YEAR (2026–2030)

Indicator	Indicator type	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Number of unique public institutions – partners per call	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	6	6	8	8	8
Number of approved projects with planned final TRL ≥ 2	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	0	5	5	6	0
Number of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers involved in SO4 projects	Immediate result (Output)	N/D	5	11	14	14	8
Number of collaborations with public sector users continued after project completion	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	3	3	4	4
Number of projects that, after completion, are ready to transition to a higher TRL phase (e.g. TRL ≥ 3)	Medium-term result (Outcome)	N/D	N/P	N/P	N/P	5	5

Legend: N/D – no data available (data not collected or no systematic monitoring in the reference year); N/A – not applicable (the indicator or activity does not apply to the given year or cannot be methodologically measured at that stage, e.g. “12 months after project completion”); 0 – measurable, but no activity or achievement in that year (e.g. no call launched → 0 projects / 0 EUR).

INDICATORS – TOTAL FOR THE PERIOD 2026–2030

Indicator	Cumulative value (2030)
Number of unique public institutions – partners per call	36
Number of approved projects with a planned final TRL ≥ 2	16
Number of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers involved in SO4 projects	52
Number of collaborations with public sector users continued after project completion	14
Number of projects that, after completion, are ready to progress to a higher TRL phase (e.g. TRL ≥ 3)	10



HORIZONTAL OBJECTIVE 3: OPEN SCIENCE AND PARTICIPATION IN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA (ERA)

Objective: To enhance research and innovation activities in Montenegro through the application of the principles of open science (open access to publications, data, and research results), alignment with EOSC standards, and the strengthening of international connectivity and participation of Montenegrin researchers and institutions in the European Research Area (ERA), including programmes such as Horizon Europe, COST, and the Digital Europe Programme. This horizontal objective includes organisational, coordination, support, and educational measures that strengthen the capacities of the research and innovation system and create preconditions for the effective implementation of specific PA2 objectives. Given that part of these measures, including the payment of membership fees for Montenegro's participation in the Horizon Europe Programme, is financed as an obligation from the state budget, this document does not establish a separate multiannual allocation for this horizontal objective. Instead, related expenditures are planned and updated on an annual basis through the programmes of the competent ministries, in line with policy priorities and available budgetary resources.



ANNEX 1 – INDICATOR PASSPORTS

PAI – KEY MEDIUM-TERM INDICATORS (OUTCOME)

PAI-1 (Outcome) – Commercialisation of innovation: Number of innovations commercialised by 2030	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of innovations (products, services, technologies, or processes) developed with PAI support that, by the end of 2030, have reached the stage of commercial application, as evidenced by at least one verified market or operational proof.
Unit of measurement	Number of innovations (number of solutions)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1: Programme for Strengthening Innovation of MMSP (projects ~24 months; target completion TRL ≥8). SO2: Collaborative grants (projects ~24 months; target completion TRL ≥8). SO3.3: Acceleration programmes and internationalisation (Regional Accelerator, LAUNCH@me, BoostMeUp, MGA). SO3.4: Tax incentives for research, development, and innovation
Commercialisation criteria (what is recognised)	At least one proof by 2030: 1) revenue generated/paying customer; 2) commercial contract / LOI; 3) licensing agreement/transfer of rights; 4) internal adoption in regular operations with a documented effect (cost savings/productivity/quality).
Calculation methodology	Counting unique innovations that meet the criteria. The same innovation is counted once (no double-counting across programmes). Cumulative reporting in 2030 for the period 2026–2030 (with annual monitoring and follow-up).
Data source	Final reports and TRL checklists; invoices/contracts/LOIs; revenue reports; evidence of implementation and KPIs; administrative data of implementing bodies.

PAI-2 (Outcome) – New jobs: Number of newly created (net) jobs in RDI and/or highly qualified positions	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of newly created (net) jobs in research, development, and innovation (RDI) and/or highly qualified positions at beneficiary level, resulting from project implementation or within 12 months after project completion. A job is considered created if the employment is active at the time of verification (6–12 months after completion).
Unit of measurement	Number of jobs, where possible, expressed in FTE (full-time equivalent)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1: Innovation of MMSP; E&E Innovation in Industry. SO2: Collaborative grants; S3 pilot; other relevant project-based instruments. SO3.4: Tax incentives for research, development, and innovation (where employment tracking is possible).
Calculation methodology	1) For each beneficiary, establish a baseline (number of RDI/highly qualified employees/FTE at project start). 2) Record new hires in relevant positions during the project and up to 12 months after completion. 3) Verify active employment status 6–12 months after completion (contracts/Pension and Disability Insurance Fund (PIO)/payroll lists). 4) The indicator equals the sum of net changes per beneficiary (positive net changes only). Negative changes are not deducted (treated as zero), unless system-level net measurement is explicitly required. 5) No double-counting; the same employment is counted once, even if the beneficiary is supported through multiple instruments; identification by beneficiary, period, and (where possible) employee.
Data source	Izveštaji korisnika (završni i ex-post do 12M); evidencija zaposlenih (ugovori o radu, M4/PIO, platne liste); administrativni podaci provoditelja; uzorčne provjere.

PA1-3 (Outcome) – Continuation of innovation activities: Number of beneficiaries that launched at least one additional RDI/innovation project after project completion	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of support beneficiaries that, after completion of the supported project, launched at least one new research, development, or innovation project (internal or external), demonstrating the sustainability of innovation activities and continuation of investment.
Unit of measurement	Number of beneficiaries
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	Primarily SO1 and SO2 (grant instruments); optionally include SO3.3 where clear evidence of continued RDI investment exists.
Calculation methodology	Follow-up 12–24 months after project completion: a beneficiary is counted if there is evidence of the launch of a new RDI/innovation project (e.g., new application, contract, investment project, internal RDI project with an approved budget). Cumulative reporting in 2030.
Data source	Administrative databases (new applications/contracts), beneficiary reports, budget documents, contracts with partners/investors.

PA1-4 (Outcome) – GovTech Adoption: Share of innovative GovTech solutions integrated into the regular operations of public institutions ≥12 months after project completion	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Share (percentage) of financed/piloted GovTech solutions that are used in the regular operations of public institutions for at least 12 months after completion of the pilot project, demonstrating actual adoption and institutionalisation of innovation in the public sector.
Unit of measurement	% (recommended: % presentation and numerator/denominator, e.g. 12/40)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO4: GovTech programme for financing innovation in the public sector.
Calculation methodology	Number of solutions that are integrated and actively used ≥12 months after completion/ total number of completed GovTech solutions in the observed cohort period. Cumulative reporting in 2030.
Data source	Institutional confirmations, adoption acts, maintenance contracts/SLAs, usage logs, budget lines for maintenance, final reports.

PA1-5 (Outcome) – Energy Efficiency (EE) sustainability: Share of enterprises actively using the introduced EE/ Energy management solution 12 months after completion of support	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Percentage of enterprises that, with support from the EE programme, introduced an innovative EE/energy management solution and that, 12 months after completion of the supported project, are confirmed to still be using the solution in a real industrial environment (the solution is functional and has not been discontinued or replaced without continuation of use).
Unit of measurement	Percentage (%)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1: Programme line supporting innovation for energy efficiency in industry.
Calculation methodology	Share (%) = (A / B) × 100, where: A = number of enterprises that actively use the solution 12 months after completion of support (counted once per project); B = total number of enterprises that introduced the solution at competition/programme level under the EE programme (from Output indicators). Note: Enterprises for which 12-month verification cannot be conducted are treated as “unknown” or, under a conservative rule, counted as non-users in A.
Data source	Final reports and evidence of contracted/implemented EE programme projects (beneficiary database). Follow-up survey/statement of beneficiaries 12 months after completion + verification evidence (e.g., proof of system/software operation, internal procedures/KPIs/reports, log screenshots, maintenance records, photo evidence of installation, confirmation by a responsible person). Administrative data of programme implementers (monitoring visits/records, where applicable).

PA1 – KEY OUTPUT INDICATORS

PA1-O1 (Output) – Private co-financing (matching): Total amount of private co-financing mobilised through PAI	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Unit of measurement	EUR
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1: Innovation of MMSP (I = 80%); PoC Business (I = 70%); EE Innovation in Industry (I = 80%). SO2: Collaborative grants (I = 80%); S3 pilot (I = 80%). SO3: SAR to SO3.2 – startup development (I = 90%). SO3.4: Tax incentives (according to the agreed intensity structure).
Calculation methodology (summary)	For grants: $P = G \times (1 - I) / I$. For tax incentives: $P_{tax} = G_{tax} \times (1 - I_{eff}) / I_{eff}$ (according to the agreed intensity structure).

PA1-O2 (Output) – TRL Progress to TRL 6: Number of MMSPs that increased TRL by ≥1 and reached at least TRL 6	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Unit of measurement	Number of MMSPs
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1: Programme for Strengthening Innovation of MMSPs. SO2: Programme line of collaborative grants for innovation.
Counting rule	MMSPs are counted (not projects).

PA1-O3 (Output) – Proof of Concept (PoC) ready for further commercialisation: Number of PoC projects ready for further commercialisation	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1: PoC – business sector. SO2: PoC – research institutions.
Minimum “readiness” criteria (recommendation)	PoC completed + evidence of technical feasibility + confirmed market relevance + defined next step (e.g., development plan/partnership/investment preparation).

PA1-O4 (Output) – Energy Efficiency (EE) Innovation in industry: Number of enterprises that introduced an innovative solution to improve energy efficiency and/or energy management	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1: Programme line supporting innovation for energy efficiency in industry.
Counting rule	An enterprise is counted once per year if the solution is implemented in a real industrial environment within the supported project.

PA1-O5 (Output) – Acceleration and internationalisation: Number of supported startups/companies in acceleration, commercialisation, and internationalisation	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Unit of measurement	Number of startups/companies
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO3.3: Regional Accelerator (sustainability & AI), LAUNCH@me, BoostMeUp, Montenegro Goes Abroad (MGA).
Counting rule	Recommendation: count by programme and year (the same startup may be counted in different programmes as output).

SO1 – INDICATORS

SO1-1 (Output) – Private co-financing (matching) at call level: Total amount of private co-financing provided by business entities	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total amount of financial resources that, as own contribution (matching), are provided by enterprises participating in the Programme for Strengthening Innovation, Proof of Concept (PoC) for the business sector, and Energy Efficiency (EE) innovation programmes.
Unit of measurement	EUR
Scope of the indicator	Covers all eligible private co-financing resources (cash contributions) that are contracted and/or clearly documented within approved projects.
Calculation methodology	Sum of private co-financing amounts specified in grant award contracts and confirmed through beneficiaries' financial reports for all approved projects within a given call/year.
Data source	Grant award contracts, beneficiaries' financial and narrative reports, administrative data of the Innovation Fund.
Data collection frequency	Annually, after the end of the fiscal year and upon approval of project reports.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Contributes to SO1 objectives by increasing private sector investment in research, development, and innovation.

SO1-2 (Output) – TRL Progress of MMSPs to a minimum of TRL 6: Number of MMSPs that increased the TRL of their solution by at least one level and reached a minimum of TRL 6	
Type of indicator	Results-based (technological progress)
Definition	Number of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MMSPs) that, as beneficiaries of Instrument 1 support, increased the technology readiness level (TRL) of the target solution by at least one level compared to the initial TRL and reached at least TRL 6 (demonstration in a relevant environment).
Unit of measurement	Number of MMSPs
Scope of the indicator	MMSPs whose projects: (1) have a documented initial TRL; (2) have an assessed final TRL at project completion; (3) achieved progress of at least one TRL level and reached a minimum of TRL 6.
Calculation methodology	For each project: assessment of initial and final TRL based on project documentation and expert/Fund evaluation; identification of projects meeting the conditions ($\geq +1$ TRL and minimum TRL 6). The indicator equals the total number of such MMSPs over the observed period.
Data source	Beneficiaries' project documentation; evaluation reports, and TRL assessments by expert bodies of the Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Data collection frequency	After project completion; aggregation on an annual basis and per call.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro; Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (strategic oversight).
Link to objectives	Measures the contribution to the objective of increasing the technological readiness of innovative MMSP solutions and bringing them closer to market commercialisation.

SO1-3 (Output) – Validated Proof of Concept (PoC): Number of innovative concepts validated through the PoC Programme	
Type of indicator	Results-based (early-stage result)
Definition	Number of innovative concepts that, through projects under Instrument 2 (PoC Programme), have successfully passed technical and market validation, i.e., for which it has been confirmed that they are technically feasible and have market potential for further development.
Unit of measurement	Number of innovative concepts/PoC projects
Scope of the indicator	PoC projects completed in the observed period for which the final report and the Fund's decision confirm a positive outcome of concept validation.
Calculation methodology	Number of PoC projects with a positively assessed validation outcome in the observed period, based on the official decision of the Fund (YES/NO). Negatively validated projects are not included in the indicator.
Data source	Innovation Fund of Montenegro – grant award documentation, beneficiaries' final reports, minutes of evaluation committees.
Data collection frequency	After completion of PoC projects; aggregated annually and per call.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Contributes to the objective of strengthening the early phase of the innovation value chain by validating the technical feasibility and market potential of innovative ideas in the business sector.

SO1-4 (Outcome) – Green Technologies: Number of enterprises that adopted or significantly adapted green technologies	
Type of indicator	Results-based (technological/environmental)
Definition	Number of beneficiary enterprises that, with support from the Energy Efficiency (EE) Programme, introduced or significantly upgraded at least one green technology solution.
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Scope of the indicator	Enterprises in which, through the project, at least one technology meeting "green" criteria has been procured, implemented, and integrated into business operations.
Calculation methodology	Based on final reports and, where applicable, on-site verification: identification of projects in which an advanced/green technology has been introduced or adapted and confirmation of its use; the indicator equals the number of such enterprises.
Data source	Beneficiary enterprise reports; procurement/equipment documentation; reports of the Innovation Fund and competent ministries; on-site verification where necessary.
Data collection frequency	After project completion; aggregated annually and per call.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Contributes to the objectives of energy efficiency and the green transition through the introduction of advanced and environmentally friendly technologies.

SO1-5 (Outcome) – Additional RDI/Innovation Projects: Number of beneficiary enterprises that launched at least one additional RDI/Innovation project after project completion	
Type of indicator	Outcome (long-term result/behavioural change)
Definition	Number of beneficiary enterprises under Instruments 1, 2, and 3 that, within 24 months after completion of the supported project, launched at least one new RDI/innovation project.
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Scope of the indicator	Beneficiary enterprises that formally initiated a new RDI/innovation project within 24 months after completion of the supported project.
Calculation methodology	Ex-post surveys and/or reporting 12–24 months after completion; where possible, verification through publicly available project/contract databases.
Data source	Ex-post questionnaires and enterprise reports; administrative databases of the Innovation Fund, ministries, and other RDI support providers.
Data collection frequency	12–24 months after project completion; aggregated annually based on the year of project completion.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Measures long-term behavioural change and the continuation of innovation activity.

SO1-6 (Outcome) – Technology in regular use ≥12 months: Number of enterprises in which green technology remained in regular use for at least 12 months after project completion	
Type of indicator	Outcome (sustainability)
Definition	Number of beneficiary enterprises in which the technology introduced or upgraded within the project remained in regular use for at least 12 months after project completion.
Unit of measurement	Number of enterprises
Scope of the indicator	Enterprises for which ex-post verification confirms the continued use of the technology (systems/software/equipment in operation).
Calculation methodology	Ex-post surveys/interviews and/or on-site verification 12–24 months after completion; counting enterprises with confirmed continued use.
Data source	Ex-post reports and questionnaires; reports of the Innovation Fund and ministries; on-site verification where necessary.
Data collection frequency	At least once in the period 12–24 months after completion; aggregated annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro; Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Economic Development.
Link to objectives	Measures the sustainability of effects and the actual integration of technology into business processes.

SO1-7 (Outcome) – New employment in RDI: Number of newly employed in RDI in beneficiary enterprises	
Type of indicator	Outcome (innovation capacities/human resources)
Definition	Number of newly created (net) jobs in RDI and/or highly qualified positions at beneficiary level, created during project implementation or within 12 months after project completion. A job is considered created if the employment is active at the time of verification.
Unit of measurement	Number of persons (where possible expressed in FTE)
Scope of the indicator	New RDI jobs (researchers, development engineers, data scientists, managers, etc.).
Calculation methodology	Sum of reported new RDI employees/FTEs with basic verification (employment contracts, internal acts).
Data source	Beneficiaries' final and ex-post reports; internal HR/financial records; sample-based verification where necessary.
Data collection frequency	During project implementation and up to 12 months after completion; aggregated annually and per call.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Strengthening human capacities for RDI in the private sector.

SO2 – INDICATORS

SO2-1 (Output) – Private co-financing (matching) at call level: total amount of private co-financing secured by economic operators	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total amount of financial resources that, as own contribution (matching), are provided by enterprises participating in the Collaborative Innovation Grants Programme and the S3 Pilot, at the level of an annual call.
Unit of measurement	EUR
Scope of the indicator	All eligible private co-financing resources (cash contributions) that are contracted and/or clearly documented within approved projects.
Calculation methodology	Sum of private co-financing amounts specified in grant award contracts and confirmed through beneficiaries' financial reports for all approved projects within a given call/year.
Data source	Grant award contracts, beneficiaries' financial and narrative reports, administrative data of the Innovation Fund.
Data collection frequency	Annually, after the end of the fiscal year and upon processing project reports.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Increasing private investment in RDI and strengthening public–private sector partnerships.

SO2-2 (Outcome) – TRL Progress of MMSPs (collaborative grants) to a minimum of TRL 6	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MMSPs) that, through projects financed under the Collaborative Grants Programme, increased the TRL of their solution by at least one level and reached a minimum of TRL 6.
Unit of measurement	Number of MMSPs
Scope of the indicator	MMSPs with at least one solution from a collaborative project for which expert assessment confirms TRL progress to TRL ≥ 6 .
Calculation methodology	Identification of initial and final TRL levels in the application and final report; counting MMSPs that achieved TRL progress ≥ 1 and reached TRL ≥ 6 .
Data source	Project documentation (applications and final reports), TRL evaluation checklists, administrative data of the Innovation Fund.
Data collection frequency	Annually, after project completion.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Strengthening the innovation capacity of the economy and increasing the number of market-ready solutions.

SO2-3 (Output) – Validated Proof of Concept (Public Sector): Number of innovative concepts validated through the PoC Programme for the public sector	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of innovative concepts for which, through financed PoC projects, technical feasibility and basic market potential have been confirmed.
Unit of measurement	Number of concepts
Scope of the indicator	Concepts (products, processes, services, technologies) that were the subject of PoC projects and for which technical feasibility and market relevance have been formally confirmed.
Calculation methodology	Based on final reports and evaluation committee decisions, projects are classified; only positively validated concepts are counted.
Data source	Final reports of PoC projects, evaluation reports, and minutes of committees, administrative data of the Fund.
Data collection frequency	Annually, after completion of PoC projects in the given year.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Enhancing early stages of research and innovation and creating a project pipeline for more advanced instruments.

SO2-4 (Output) – Innovation vouchers: total amount of funds approved through innovation vouchers	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total annual amount of grant funding awarded to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MMSPs) through the Innovation Voucher Programme.
Unit of measurement	EUR
Scope of the indicator	All approved voucher amounts contracted and/or paid for the purchase of RDI services from research organisations and innovation infrastructure.
Calculation methodology	Sum of approved innovation voucher amounts per beneficiary and per call within one calendar year.
Data source	Administrative data of the Fund (records of contracted and paid vouchers).
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Increasing the use of RDI services and strengthening collaboration between the business sector and research organisations.

SO2-5 (Output) – S3 Pilot: Number of S3 Pilot Projects with TRL Increase ≥ 1	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of S3 pilot projects in which, during the pilot phase in a real industrial environment, an increase in the TRL of the tested solution by at least one level was recorded.
Unit of measurement	Number of projects
Scope of the indicator	S3 pilot projects with a formal assessment of initial and final TRL, with a confirmed TRL increase ≥ 1 .
Calculation methodology	Expert assessment of initial and final TRL levels based on technical documentation and reports; counting projects with TRL growth ≥ 1 .
Data source	Technical and final reports of S3 pilots, TRL checklists, administrative data of the Fund.
Data collection frequency	Annually, after the completion of S3 pilots financed in the given year.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Accelerated increase of technological readiness of solutions through collaboration between industry, startups, and the research sector.

SO2-6 (Outcome) – S3 Pilot: Number of solutions that the industrial partner continues to use or scales after pilot completion	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of solutions developed and tested through S3 pilots that the industrial partner continues to use or further scales after project completion.
Unit of measurement	Number of solutions
Scope of the indicator	Solutions integrated into regular processes, expanded to additional production lines/facilities, or implemented with other users of the same industrial partner.
Calculation methodology	Based on final and follow-up reports, solutions that remain in use or are scaled are identified; counted on an annual basis.
Data source	Final and follow-up reports of companies, administrative data of the Fund.
Data collection frequency	Annually, with additional verification 12–18 months after pilot completion.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro, in cooperation with industrial partners.
Link to objectives	Increasing the adoption of advanced technologies in industry and the market relevance of solutions.

SO2-7 (Output) – IP Programme: Number of prototypes developed and laboratory tests conducted related to IP applications	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of prototypes and laboratory/other technical tests carried out within the IP Programme for the purpose of preparing and submitting applications for intellectual property protection.
Unit of measurement	Number of prototypes and tests
Scope of the indicator	Prototyping and testing activities that directly support solution validation and IP application submission.
Calculation methodology	Summation of prototyping and testing activities reported in the final reports of IP projects within a given year.
Data source	Beneficiaries' final reports, technical documentation, records of Technology Transfer Office (UTT) and Science and Technology Park of Montenegro (NTP Montenegro).
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Technology Transfer Office – Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Strengthening the quality and readiness of innovations for IP protection and commercialisation.

SO2-8 (Output) – IP Programme: Number of patent analyses and technical reports prepared	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of patent searches, state-of-the-art analyses, and technical reports prepared within the IP Programme for the purpose of assessing innovation potential and protection opportunities.
Unit of measurement	Number of analyses and reports
Scope of the indicator	Formal patent searches and expert technical reports used to support decision-making on IP applications.
Calculation methodology	Counting all completed and approved analyses/reports within supported IP projects during the year.
Data source	Records of the Technology Transfer Office (UTT), reports of experts/partners, final reports of IP projects.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Technology Transfer Office – Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Increasing the quality and number of prepared IP applications and strengthening knowledge of IP procedures.

SO2-9 (Outcome) – IP Programme: Number of approved (registered) IP rights resulting from supported applications	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of formally registered IP rights (patents, industrial designs, trademarks, etc.) resulting from applications supported under the IP Programme.
Unit of measurement	Number of registered IP rights
Scope of the indicator	IP rights with a successfully completed protection procedure, where part of the procedure was financed through the IP Programme.
Calculation methodology	Monitoring the status of IP applications in relevant registers; counting applications that obtained registered IP status during the observed period.
Data source	National and international registers (e.g. WIPO, EPO), records of the Technology Transfer Office (UTT) and beneficiaries.
Data collection frequency	Annually (with the note that procedures may span multiple years).
Responsible institution	Technology Transfer Office – Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, in cooperation with the competent IP authority.
Link to objectives	Increasing the number of protected innovations and the commercial value of RDI results.

SO2-10 (Outcome) – New employment in RDI in beneficiary enterprises	
Type of indicator	Outcome (innovation capacities/human resources)
Definition	Number of newly created (net) jobs in RDI and/or highly qualified positions at beneficiary level, resulting from the implementation of supported projects/programmes. A job is considered created if employment is confirmed and active during the verification period after project completion.
Unit of measurement	Number of persons (where possible expressed in FTE)
Scope of the indicator	New RDI jobs created in beneficiary enterprises during project implementation and up to 12 months after completion.
Calculation methodology	Sum of reported new RDI FTEs with basic verification (employment contracts, internal acts).
Data source	Beneficiaries' final and ex-post reports; internal HR/financial records; sample-based verification where necessary.
Data collection frequency	During project implementation and up to 12 months after completion; aggregated annually and per call.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Strengthening human capacities for RDI and increasing employment of highly qualified staff.

SO3.1 – INDICATORS

SO3.1-1 (Output) – Number of participants in early-stage innovation development programmes	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Indicator measuring the total number of individuals (students, young researchers, innovators, and other young people) who, in the observed year, participated in at least one programme of early-stage innovation development: Startup Camp for Students, SkillsUp, BIT Problem First, i4ME Hub.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of people
Scope of the indicator	All unique participants who formally enrolled and attended at least one programme; if the same person participates in multiple programmes in the same year, they are counted once.
Calculation methodology	Maintaining participant records per programme; at year-end, a unique database is created (unique ID) and duplicates are removed; the indicator equals the number of unique participants.
Data source	Administrative participant records (NTP Montenegro, IPC Technopolis), application forms, attendance lists, internal databases/CRM.
Data collection frequency	Annually (at the end of the calendar year).
Responsible institution	Competent ministry for innovation (consolidation); data delivery from NTP Montenegro and IPC Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Increasing the number of individuals engaged in the innovation ecosystem and developing basic innovation-related competencies.

SO3.1-2 (Output) – Structured innovation projects in the early stage developed through early-stage development programmes	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of innovation projects (ideas) that, through programmes such as Startup Camp for Students, SkillsUp, BIT Problem First, i4ME Hub, resulted in at least one structured innovation concept (e.g. a clearly defined problem, validated customer need, basic business model/solution).
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of projects/ideas
Scope of the indicator	Projects/ideas that meet the minimum criteria of a structured innovation concept; each team/project is counted once.
Calculation methodology	At the end of each cohort, projects that meet the criteria (Lean Canvas, problem definition, pitch, technical description) are identified; the indicator equals the number of such projects per year.
Data source	Programme documentation and reports (NTP Montenegro and IPC Technopolis), lists of teams/projects, mentor evaluations.
Data collection frequency	Annually (after completion of each cohort/programme).
Responsible institution	Competent ministry for innovation, with data delivery from NTP Montenegro and IPC Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Increasing the number of well-prepared projects ready for more advanced support instruments.

SO3.1-3 (Output) – Number of educational and mentoring workshops/sessions delivered within early-stage innovation development programmes	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total number of educational and mentoring activities (workshops, trainings, group mentoring and coaching sessions, webinars) delivered within early-stage innovation development programmes in the observed year.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of workshops/sessions
Scope of the indicator	All formally planned and implemented group activities within the listed programmes.
Calculation methodology	Each programme maintains an activity log; at year-end, activities are counted and aggregated per programme.
Data source	Programme calendars and activity plans, implementation reports, internal records of NTP Montenegro and IPC Technopolis.
Data collection frequency	Annually (with the possibility of internal quarterly monitoring).
Responsible institution	Competent ministry for innovation, with data delivery from NTP Montenegro and IPC Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Strengthening the capacities of young people through structured programmes.

SO3.1-4 (Outcome) – Share of projects entering prototyping/MVP	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Share of innovation projects (teams/ideas) that, after completing early-stage innovation development programmes, entered prototyping and/or MVP development programmes in the observed year.
Unit of measurement	Percentage (%)
Scope of the indicator	Projects originating from Startup Camp, SkillsUp, BIT Problem First, and i4ME Hub that were formally admitted to prototyping/MVP programmes.
Calculation methodology	Indicator = $(N / D) \times 100$, where N is the number of projects entering prototyping/MVP, and D is the total number of innovation projects in the relevant period.
Data source	Records of NTP Montenegro and IPC Technopolis; records of prototyping/MVP programmes; internal databases/CRM.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Competent ministry for innovation, with data provision from NTP Montenegro, IPC Technopolis, and prototyping/MVP programme implementers.
Link to objectives	Increasing the number of projects progressing towards commercialisation.

SO3.2 – INDICATORS

SO3.2-1 (Output) - Ukupan broj podržanih timova/startupova kroz sve programe	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total number of unique teams and startup enterprises that, during the observed period, received support through programmes such as the Startup Development Support Programme Line, BIT Idealab, ProtoBIT, and Mentorship Programmes.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of teams/startups
Scope of the indicator	Teams and startups supported through the listed programmes; aggregated as unique beneficiaries (one count per team/startup).
Calculation methodology	Programme-level beneficiary records; consolidation into a single database (Team_ID); removal of duplicates; the indicator equals the number of unique teams/startups.
Data source	Administrative beneficiary records (Innovation Fund, IPC Technopolis, Science and Technology Park of Montenegro), application forms, contracts, internal databases.
Data collection frequency	Annually (with the possibility of cumulative monitoring for 2026–2030).
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro, IPC Technopolis, Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Expanding the base of startups in the innovation ecosystem and contributing to the development of new innovative enterprises.

SO3.2-2 (Output) – Percentage of teams with TRL progress	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Share of innovation teams/startups that, during project/programme implementation, increased the TRL of their innovation by at least one level.
Unit of measurement	Percentage (%)
Scope of the indicator	Teams/startups participating in programmes where TRL is monitored (Programme Line, ProtoBIT, BIT Idealab, and relevant mentorship programmes).
Calculation methodology	Indicator = $(\text{number of teams with TRL progress} / \text{total number of teams in programmes with TRL tracking}) \times 100$.
Data source	Application forms (initial TRL), periodic and final beneficiary reports, programme implementers' monitoring templates.
Data collection frequency	Annually (after completion of projects/programmes in the given year).
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro, IPC Technopolis, Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Contributes to technological progress of innovations towards the prototype/MVP stage.

SO3.2-3 (Output) – Teams with an improved business model

Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of teams/startups that, during programme implementation, for the first time defined a business model or significantly improved an existing business model.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number of teams/startups
Scope of the indicator	Teams from BIT IdeaLab, Mentorship Programmes, the Programme Line, and ProtoBIT in which the business model was defined or significantly improved.
Calculation methodology	Business model status is recorded at the start; at the end, mentors/teams confirm definition or significant improvement; the indicator equals the number of teams with a positive change.
Data source	Mentoring records and reports; initial and final questionnaires; business model documentation (Canvas, pitch deck, business plan).
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro (consolidation); IPC Technopolis and Science and Technology Park of Montenegro (data provision).
Link to objectives	Development of business capacities and preparation of innovations for the market.

SO3.2-4 (Output) – Number of engaged mentors (national and international)

Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total number of unique mentors who, during the observed period, were formally engaged and delivered mentoring support within SO3.2 programmes.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number (number of mentors)
Scope of the indicator	Mentors engaged in Mentorship Programmes of the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro (NTP CG), BIT IdeaLab, ProtoBIT, and the Programme Line of the Innovation Fund; includes national and international mentors.
Calculation methodology	Consolidation of mentor registries across programmes into a single database; removal of duplicates; counting unique mentors with at least one delivered mentoring activity.
Data source	Mentor contracts and records, activity logs/timesheets, reports on workshops and sessions.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro; IPC Technopolis and Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Strengthening the capacity and quality of the mentoring network.

SO3.2-5 (Outcome) – Teams progressing to incubation/acceleration or grant schemes

Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of teams/startups that, within 12–24 months after completion of participation, took the next step by entering incubation/acceleration programmes and/or submitting grant applications.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number (number of teams/startups)
Scope of the indicator	Teams from SO3.2 programmes that were admitted to incubators/accelerators and/or submitted applications to grant schemes (regardless of outcome).
Calculation methodology	Annually, teams that completed programmes in the previous 12–24 months are identified and their entry into incubation/acceleration programmes or submission of grant applications is verified; the indicator equals the number of such teams.
Data source	Records of incubators/accelerators, grant scheme records, follow-up surveys of beneficiaries.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro; IPC Technopolis and Science and Technology Park of Montenegro; other incubators/accelerators as relevant.
Link to objectives	The programme's role as a "springboard" to more advanced stages of development.

SO3.2-6 (Outcome) – Share of active teams 3 years after programme completion

Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Percentage of unique teams/startups from cohort year Y that, 36 months after completion of the programme, remain active in the development of an innovation project.
Unit of measurement	Percentage (%)
Scope of the indicator	All unique teams/startups that completed one or more SO3.2 programmes in cohort year Y (counted once per cohort).
Calculation methodology	Share (%) = $(K / N) \times 100$, where N is the total number of teams in the cohort and K is the number of active teams after 36 months (with verifiable evidence of activity).
Data source	Central beneficiary registry (Team_ID), follow-up surveys and supporting evidence, records of programme implementers; where relevant, public registers.
Data collection frequency	Annually (cohort-based tracking at 36 months after programme completion).
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro (coordination), IPC Technopolis and Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Sustainability and continuity of innovation project development.

SO3.3 – INDICATORS**SO3.3-1 (Output) – Number of supported startups/teams/companies per year**

Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of startups, teams, and innovative enterprises that, within one calendar year, received financial and/or non-financial support through programmes such as the Regional Accelerator for Sustainability and AI, LAUNCH@me (Phase 3), BoostMeUp, and Montenegro Goes Abroad (MGA).
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Scope of the indicator	Beneficiaries formally admitted to programmes (contract/access). Where necessary, unique enterprises are identified to avoid duplication.
Calculation methodology	Counting beneficiaries per instrument; aggregation at the measure level with duplicate removal where possible (TIN or other unique identifier).
Data source	Administrative data and beneficiary records of individual programmes.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro, accelerator operators, Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, IPC Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Commercialisation and internationalisation of innovative companies.

SO3.3-2 (Output) – Pitching/Investment events and investor presentations

Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of organised events at which programme beneficiaries present their projects to investors and/or partners (demo days, pitching competitions, investor forums, B2B events).
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Scope of the indicator	Events organised within the Regional Accelerator, LAUNCH@me (Phase 3), BoostMeUp, and Montenegro Goes Abroad (MGA).
Calculation methodology	Each event is counted as one unit; reporting is done per programme and in aggregate.
Data source	Programme plans and implementation reports, event agendas, organisers' reports.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro, Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, IPC Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Investment readiness and access to capital.

SO3.3-3 (Output) – Beneficiaries successfully completing the programme

Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of beneficiaries that successfully completed the support cycle (met the minimum criteria for "graduation").
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Scope of the indicator	Beneficiaries that completed the entire programme; dropouts are excluded.
Calculation methodology	Records of admitted and completed beneficiaries per programme; the indicator equals the number of "graduates" per year.
Data source	Beneficiary lists, final reports, minutes of demo/pitch events, contracts/annexes.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, IPC Technopolis, and the Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Quality and effectiveness of support for scaling.

SO3.3-4 (Outcome) – Share of supported beneficiaries that secured external financing

Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Percentage of beneficiaries (startups/teams/companies) supported through relevant programmes/instruments that secured at least one external financing source outside the Programme, including up to the reference reporting date (e.g. 31 December 2030).
Unit of measurement	Percentage (%) and absolute number
Scope of the indicator	External financing outside the Programme: investment (equity/convertible/SAFE), grants from other sources, loans and other financial instruments, corporate investments/partnerships with verifiable financial inflow.
Calculation methodology	Share (%) = (Number of supported beneficiaries with verified external financing by 31 December 2030 / Total number of supported beneficiaries in the period 2026–2030) × 100. One beneficiary is counted once, regardless of the number of financing rounds.
Data source	Beneficiary reports + supporting documentation (investment agreement/term sheet, grant decision, loan agreement, bank statements/confirmation of funds received), administrative data of the Fund.
Data collection frequency	Annually (cumulative monitoring), with final accounting as of 31 December 2030.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro, Science and Technology Park of Montenegro, IPC Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Attraction of additional capital and scaling of innovative companies.

SO3.4 – INDICATORS**SO3.4-1 (Output) – Users of the Verified Mentoring Network**

Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total number of startups, innovative MMSPs, and teams that, during the year, used services of the Verified Mentoring Network.
Unit of measurement	Number of users per year
Scope of the indicator	Users with at least one mentoring session or participation in an educational module; each user is counted once per year.
Calculation methodology	Sum of unique users recorded in reports and registers; no duplication within the year.
Data source	Records of the Innovation Fund, IPC Technopolis, and the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Increasing the quality and accessibility of mentoring support.

SO3.4-2 (Output) – Users of support instruments (BITKO, AI Startup school, mentoring network, alumni programme)	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total number of entities that, during the year, used at least one support instrument: BITKO, AI Startup School, the Verified Mentoring Network, or the Alumni Programme.
Unit of measurement	Number of users per year
Scope of the indicator	Entities that used at least one instrument; consolidation of databases and removal of duplicates is recommended to identify unique users.
Calculation methodology	Consolidation of user databases and removal of duplicates; the indicator equals the number of unique users.
Data source	Administrative databases and reports of IPC Technopolis, the Innovation Fund, and the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Increasing the reach of digital and mentoring support instruments.

SO3.4-3 (Output) – Private co-financing through tax incentives: Total amount of private co-financing (matching) through the use of tax incentives	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total amount of private funds that, as own contribution (matching), are invested in eligible programme/project costs financed through tax incentives, after accounting for public support provided in the form of utilised tax relief.
Unit of measurement	EUR per year
Scope of the indicator	Private share of eligible costs (matching) related to donations/investments benefiting from tax incentives, by category of aid intensity.
Calculation methodology	Projection (ex-ante, for planning purposes): $M_{tax} = G_{(tax,plan)} \times \sum_i (s_i \times (1 - L_i) / L_i)$, where $G_{(tax,plan)}$ is the planned financial framework ("foregone tax revenue"), s_i the share by category, and L_i the aid intensity.
Data source	Tax Administration; administrative records of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Link to objectives	Increasing private investment in RDI and strengthening the link between business and science.

SO3.4-4 (Outcome) – Active users 3 years after participation	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of startups, innovative MMSPs, and teams that used support instruments and that remain active three years after participation.
Unit of measurement	Number of active users
Scope of the indicator	Users of BITKO, AI Startup School, the Verified Mentoring Network, and Alumni Programme who are active three years later according to relevant registers.
Calculation methodology	Cohort-based counting of users from year Y who are active on the reference date three years later.
Data source	Administrative records of IPC Technopolis, the Innovation Fund, and the Science and Technology Park of Montenegro; relevant public registers.
Data collection frequency	Annually (with a three-year cohort lag).
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro, IPC Technopolis, and Science and Technology Park of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Sustainability of users after support.

SO3.4-5 (Outcome) – New employment in RDI (Beneficiaries of tax/digital support instruments)	
Type of indicator	Outcome (innovation capacities/human resources)
Definition	Number of newly employed persons performing RDI-related activities in enterprises/startups, employed during the use of tax/digital support instruments and within 12 months after completion of their use, in whole or in part as a result of the support.
Unit of measurement	Number of persons (where possible expressed in FTE)
Scope of the indicator	New RDI jobs created during project implementation and up to 12 months after completion.
Calculation methodology	Sum of reported new RDI FTEs with basic verification (employment contracts, internal acts).
Data source	Beneficiaries' final and ex-post reports; internal HR/financial records; sample-based verification where necessary.
Data collection frequency	During implementation and up to 12 months after completion; aggregated annually and per call.
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Link to objectives	Strengthening human capacities for RDI in the private sector.

SO4 – INDICATORS

SO4-1 (Output) – Public institutions and community teams engaged	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total number of public institutions and community teams/groups engaged in innovation programmes addressing public and societal challenges through BIT Social Problem First and GovTech during the year.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Scope of the indicator	Public institutions applying to challenges/participating in GovTech and community teams/groups engaged in the BIT programme; duplication is avoided.
Calculation methodology	Sum of unique public institutions engaged in GovTech and unique community teams/groups engaged in the BIT programme.
Data source	Records of the Innovation Fund (GovTech) and IPC Technopolis (BIT Social Problem First).
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro (GovTech) and IPC Technopolis (BIT Social Problem First).
Link to objectives	Engagement of the public sector and communities in innovation to address societal challenges.

SO4-2 (Output) – Number of piloted GovTech Solutions for public challenges	
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Total number of GovTech solutions/projects addressing public challenges that entered the piloting phase during the year with programme support.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number (number of piloted solutions/projects)
Scope of the indicator	GovTech solutions formally approved for piloting, for which the pilot was initiated or implemented in cooperation with the competent public institution.
Calculation methodology	Counting GovTech solutions/projects that entered the piloting phase during the year. One solution is counted once per year, regardless of the number of pilot locations or institutions.
Data source	Pilot contracts, pilot approval decisions, pilot implementation reports, project documentation of the Fund; confirmations/reports from public institutions.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro.
Link to objectives	Testing and deployment of innovative solutions in the public sector.

SO4-3 (Outcome) – Percentage of solutions integrated ≥12 months after completion	
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Share of innovative solutions that continue to be used in practice for at least 12 months after project completion, relative to the total number of financed/piloted solutions.
Unit of measurement	Percentage (%)
Scope of the indicator	GovTech solutions integrated into standard procedures/services and BIT social innovations that remain in use by user institutions.
Calculation methodology	$R = (\text{number of integrated and sustained solutions} / \text{total number of solutions}) \times 100$.
Data source	Ex-post evaluations and beneficiary reports; reports of public institutions; reports of BIT teams; monitoring by IPC Technopolis.
Data collection frequency	Annually (with a time lag – measured for projects completed in the previous year).
Responsible institution	Innovation Fund of Montenegro; user public institutions; IPC Technopolis.
Link to objectives	Sustainable integration of innovation into public services and addressing societal challenges.

PA2 – INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS: ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS TO HORIZON EUROPE

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of project applications submitted to Horizon Europe in which at least one beneficiary supported under PA2 participates (as partner or coordinator), and which are formally accepted for evaluation (i.e., passed the admissibility/eligibility check and entered the evaluation process). The indicator measures the capacity of institutions to prepare applications that meet Horizon Europe standards and rules (a step towards higher success in EU programmes).
Unit of measurement	Number of applications
Programmes/ instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1 – Instrument 3: Support to national teams for the preparation and implementation of EU projects. SO2 – Instrument 2: Postdoctoral research and mobility (secondary). SO2 – Instrument 3: Short-term mobility for research (secondary). SO3 – Instrument 3: Cooperation with the scientific diaspora. SO3 – Instrument 1 & 2: National research excellence and excellence grants (development of results and capacities for EU applications).
Eligibility criteria/ rules	An application is counted if there is evidence that it has been submitted and has a status confirming that it entered evaluation (i.e., not rejected for formal/administrative reasons).
Calculation methodology	Counting unique applications based on a unique identifier (submission ID/acronym + call). The application is counted regardless of the number of PA2 beneficiaries involved. If the same idea is resubmitted in a different call/round (resubmission), it is counted as a new application (new submission). Annual recording with cumulative reporting for the period 2026–2030.
Data source	Submission confirmation, extract/status of the application from the Funding & Tenders Portal, copy of the application, records of institutional project offices, and the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.

PA2 – SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AND QUALITY OF PUBLICATIONS – WOS/ SCOPUS

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of scientific publications resulting from projects financed under PA2 that are published in peer-reviewed journals and indexed in Web of Science (WoS) or Scopus, with verifiable linkage to a PA2 project (funding acknowledgement or other validated link).
Unit of measurement	Number of publications
Programmes/ instruments contributing to the indicator	<p>SO3 – Instrument 1: Programme for co-financing national research projects. SO3 – Instrument 2: Research grants programme to support scientific excellence. SO2 – Instrument 1: Doctoral scholarships programme (secondary). SO2 – Instrument 2: Postdoctoral research for excellence (secondary). SO2 – Instrument 3: Short-term research mobility (secondary). SO3 – Instrument 4: Centres of Excellence. SO3 – Instrument 3: Cooperation with the scientific diaspora. SO1 – Instrument 1: Programme for development, modernisation and open use of research infrastructure (secondary). SO4 – Instrument: Programme for the development of research ideas and concepts and Applied Research for societal impact (secondary).</p>
Eligibility criteria/ rules	(1) The publication is peer-reviewed and has a DOI (or another stable identifier). (2) The journal is indexed in WoS or Scopus in the year of publication. (3) The publication is linked to a PA2 project (acknowledgement or evidence from project documentation).
Calculation methodology	Counting unique publications (one publication = one DOI). Recorded by year of publication, with cumulative reporting for the period 2026–2030. Double counting is avoided by counting each publication once at PA2 level, regardless of the number of linked projects or beneficiaries.
Data source	Final project reports; DOI/links; institutional bibliographies; WoS/Scopus indexing records.

PA2 – NUMBER OF PA2 PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE EMPLOYED OR CONTRACTUALLY ENGAGED IN R&D 12 MONTHS AFTER COMPLETION (ACADEMIC, PUBLIC OR BUSINESS SECTOR)

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Outcome (medium-term result)
Definition	Number of PA2 participants (doctoral and postdoctoral researchers) who, 12 months after completion, remain employed or contractually engaged in research and development (R&D) activities in the academic, public, or business sector.
R&D engagement	R&D engagement = a valid contract/employment relationship with demonstrable R&D tasks which include activities such as conducting research, development and validation of methods and protocols, product/process/service development for R&D systems, analytical/data-related R&D work, preparation of research reports/publications/patent documentation. Administrative/sales/operational/teaching activities are not considered R&D tasks.
Unit of measurement	Absolute number
Programmes/ instruments contributing to the indicator	<p>SO2 – Programme: Doctoral scholarships programme. SO2 – Programme: Postdoctoral research for excellence. SO2 – Programme: Short-term research mobility. SO3 – Instrument 1: Programme for co-financing national research projects. SO3 – Instrument 2: Research grants programme to support scientific excellence. SO3 – Instrument 3: Cooperation with the scientific diaspora. SO3 – Instrument 4: Centres of Excellence.</p>
Eligibility criteria/rules	Includes all PA2 participants (doctoral and postdoctoral) who completed the instrument (completion date = end date of the instrument/contract). Reference point: 12 months after instrument completion. Employment/engagement: valid employment or contractual engagement in the academic, public, or business sector. Proof of R&D engagement: employment/contract description and/or confirmation from the employer/institution that the participant performs R&D tasks. Exclusions: positions without R&D content (administrative, teaching-only, sales, operational, or purely instructional roles). One participant is counted once, regardless of the number of contracts. If there is no evidence of R&D engagement in the contract or role at the reference date, the participant is not counted in the numerator.
Calculation methodology	(Number of PA2 participants who are employed or contractually engaged in R&D 12 months after completion / Total number of PA2 participants who completed the instrument in the observed cohort) × 100 (if reported as a rate), or reported as an absolute number, depending on reporting format.
Data source	Records of PA2 instrument beneficiaries (MESI); beneficiaries' final reports; copies of employment/engagement contracts or employer confirmations of R&D engagement; documentation describing job roles and R&D tasks (where necessary).

PA2 – NUMBER OF TRANSFERRED KNOWLEDGE, METHODOLOGIES AND TECHNOLOGIES TO INDUSTRY AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of unique knowledge outputs, methodologies or technologies developed and/or significantly improved through projects that, following project completion, were transferred to at least one business entity through documented knowledge transfer activities. Verification is carried out at two reference points: 6 months after project completion (outcome) and 24 months after completion (ex post/final).
Unit of measurement	Number of transferred units of knowledge/methodology/technology
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO3 instruments and SO4 instruments (where relevant).
Scope of the indicator	Outputs such as methods, prototypes, software, models, feasibility studies, datasets/tools, and patents-in-progress, provided that documented post-project knowledge transfer activities exist (e.g. pilot/PoC, implementation/integration, training, delivery, licensing or service agreements).
Calculation methodology	Counting unique “transferred” units at the level of individual results (1 result = 1 unit) with verified evidence of transfer after project completion. Iterations or updates are not counted as new units unless they constitute a substantially different result. Measurement is conducted at 6 and 24 months after project completion; over a 24-month period, additional transfers that occurred after the 6-month point are also recorded.
Data source	Final project reports and deliverables; confirmations/statements from business entities on uptake or use; pilot/PoC reports; evidence of implementation or integration; contracts, licence or service agreements; relevant supporting documented communication/feedback from business entities
Data collection frequency	6 months after project completion (outcome) and 24 months after completion (ex post/final).
Responsible institution	Project beneficiaries (submission of documentation and evidence); Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (guidance, verification and consolidation).
Link to objectives	Increasing the relevance and applicability of research for the economy and strengthening innovation capacities through documented knowledge and technology transfer.

PA2 – RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE: OPEN ACCESS AND EVIDENCE OF USE

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Percentage of infrastructure units (equipment/laboratories/systems) financed under PA2 that have adopted publicly available open access rules (who can use them, under what conditions and pricing, where applicable) and maintain documented evidence of use.
Unit of measurement	% (A/B)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1 – Instrument 1: Programme for development, modernisation and open use of research infrastructure (primary contribution). SO3 – Instrument 1: Programme for co-financing national research projects. SO3 – Instrument 2: Research grants programme to support scientific excellence. SO3 – Instrument 3: Cooperation with the scientific diaspora. SO3 – Instrument 4: Centres of Excellence (infrastructure investments and capacity management).
Eligibility criteria/rules	An infrastructure unit is counted in the numerator if both conditions are met: (1) formally adopted and publicly available open access rules; (2) documented evidence of use (reservations/logs/records) during the observed year.
Calculation methodology	$A/B \times 100$, where A = number of infrastructure units with open access rules and evidence of use, and B = total number of infrastructure units financed under PA2. Recorded annually, with cumulative cohort-based tracking of investments.
Data source	Access rules/acts; institutional websites; reservation systems/logs; inventory/equipment descriptions; usage reports.

PA2 – NUMBER OF DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS WHO COMPLETED TRAINING, MENTORING AND/OR MOBILITY

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of unique doctoral and postdoctoral researchers (early-stage researchers) who, in the reporting year, successfully completed training, mentoring and/or short-term mobility financed through PA2 instruments (with verified completion/implementation).
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO2 – Instruments 1, 2 and 3; SO3
Scope of the indicator	Participants with verified completion, evidenced by host institution confirmation, certificates, mentoring/training reports, travel documentation, and beneficiaries' final reports in line with instrument rules.
Calculation methodology	Counting unique persons per year (1 person = 1), regardless of the number or type of trainings or mobility activities completed within the same year. Double counting is avoided through the use of a unique participant identifier (e.g. internal MESI ID/UMCN). Each person is counted once within the indicator. (Optional: number of mobility actions may be tracked separately as a complementary indicator.)
Data source	Funding decisions/contracts; participant lists; host institution confirmations; travel orders/invoices; certificates; mentor/beneficiary reports; administrative database of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (consolidation and verification); beneficiaries/host institutions (submission of evidence).
Link to objectives	Measures the intensity of investment in the development of early-stage researchers (mobility/training/mentoring) as direct support to strengthening research capacities and internationalisation.

PA2 – NUMBER OF MODERNISED RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES (RI)

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of research infrastructures (equipment, laboratories, platforms or facilities) modernised with support measures under PA2 and completed/put into operation in the reporting year.
Unit of measurement	Number of RI units
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1 – Instrument 1: Programme for development, modernisation and open use of research infrastructure (primary contribution).
Scope of the indicator	RI units with completed modernisation activities (procurement/installation/commissioning), including accompanying equipment and functional upgrades defined in the funding agreement.
Calculation methodology	Counting unique RI units per year based on inventory/contractual identifiers. Each RI unit is counted once in the year in which modernisation is completed and formally confirmed (commissioning/acceptance record). To avoid double counting, the same RI unit is not counted again if subject to multiple or supplementary procurements within the same investment.
Data source	Funding agreements; technical documentation; commissioning/installation records; equipment inventories/descriptions; beneficiary reports; administrative records of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Beneficiary institutions (recording and reporting); Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (coordination and verification).
Link to objectives	Measuring the scope of RI modernisation as a key prerequisite for high-quality research, open science, and increased international competitiveness.

PA2 – NUMBER OF FOREIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN COOPERATION PROJECTS

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of unique foreign research institutions that, in the reporting year, participate as partners through incoming/outgoing mobility, consortium membership, or other forms of formal cooperation in projects/activities financed under PA2.
Unit of measurement	Number of institutions
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO3 instruments (primarily: cooperation with the scientific diaspora, excellence grants, centres of excellence, co-financing of national projects with international components).
Scope of the indicator	Institutions outside Montenegro with a formalised role (e.g. listed in the application/contract, Memorandum of Understanding, cooperation agreement, mobility confirmation).
Calculation methodology	Counting unique foreign institutions per year (1 institution = 1), without duplication where the same institution participates in multiple projects. Deduplication is performed using the standardised institution name (and/or unique institutional identifier where available).
Data source	Project applications and contracts; partner lists; Memoranda of Understanding/cooperation agreements; mobility confirmations; beneficiary reports; administrative database of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Project beneficiaries (submission of evidence); Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (consolidation and verification).
Link to objectives	Measures internationalisation and the scope of international partnerships, contributing to integration into the ERA and increased international visibility.

PA2–NUMBER OF DOCTORAL AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDENTS/RESEARCHERS INVOLVED IN PROJECTS

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of unique doctoral and postdoctoral students/early-stage researchers who, in the reporting year, were engaged in research activities financed through PA2, including SO2 instruments (doctoral scholarships and postdoctoral grants) and SO3 projects (as young team members, scholarship holders, or researchers defined in project documentation).
Unit of measurement	Number of persons
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO2 – Instrument 1: Doctoral scholarships programme and Instrument 2 (Postdoctoral research for excellence) (primary SO2 contribution).
SO3 instruments: National research projects, excellence grants, cooperation with the scientific diaspora, centres of excellence (primary SO3 contribution).	Učešće definisano ugovorom o projektu, kadrovskim planom ili službenom odlukom ustanove; preporuka: evidentirati uloge i trajanje angažmana.
Scope of the indicator	Participation defined by project contracts, human resources plans, or formal institutional decisions; recommendation: records include role and duration of engagement.
Calculation methodology	PA2-level counting (without duplication): for the reporting year, a consolidated list of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers engaged through (a) SO2 grants/scholarships and (b) SO3 projects is created. Deduplication is performed using a unique person identifier (e.g. internal MESI ID/UMCN). Each person is counted once per year, regardless of whether they are an SO2 beneficiary and/or a member of an SO3 project team. Reporting by SO2 and SO3 may be presented as subcomponents (contribution tags) but is not summed separately.
Data source	SO2: Scholarship/grant contracts and decisions, mentor/institution reports, payment records, administrative database of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation. SO3: Project HR plans, contracts/decisions on engagement, project reports, institutional records; consolidated at PA2 level by person ID.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Beneficiary institutions (recording and reporting); Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (consolidation).
Link to objectives	Measures the extent of involvement of young researchers in projects and the strengthening of research capacities (rejuvenation and team-based experience).

PA2 – NUMBER OF NEW INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS SECURED IN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND RELEVANT BODIES

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of new international memberships (or formally secured access arrangements) through which Montenegro and/or beneficiary institutions obtain access to international research infrastructures and/or relevant governance/expert bodies during the reporting period.
Unit of measurement	Number of memberships
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1 – Instrument 2: Membership in international research infrastructures and bodies (primary).
Scope of the indicator	New memberships/access decisions that enter into force for the first time in the reporting period (renewals are not counted).
Calculation methodology	Counting unique new memberships concluded within the year (1 membership = 1). A membership is recognised when it is formally established (signed accession/membership agreement or official decision of admission) and/or when the first membership fee that activates membership is paid. Double counting is avoided through a unique membership/infrastructure ID and the rule that the same membership is not counted more than once within the period.
Data source	Membership/access agreements or decisions; financial documentation on membership fees; official correspondence; records of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation and participating institutions.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (formalisation and records); beneficiary institutions (submission of documentation).
Link to objectives	Strengthening integration into the ERA and access to international resources and networks, improving visibility and research quality.

PA2 – NUMBER OF COLLABORATIONS WITH INDUSTRY ESTABLISHED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT RESULTS

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of unique business entities that, during project implementation, were involved in the joint development and/or significant advancement of project results (e.g. joint algorithms, protocols, software, datasets, models, prototypes), with a clearly defined role in project activities.
Unit of measurement	Number (business entities/collaborations)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO3 instruments (primarily: excellence grants, centres of excellence, national research projects, cooperation with the scientific diaspora) and SO4 instruments (where relevant: applied research for societal impact, development of research ideas and concepts), provided that business entities are involved.
Scope of the indicator	Business entities contributing to the development of results through participation in work packages, definition of requirements, provision of data/equipment for development and testing, joint testing/validation during the project, or other clearly documented development activities (beyond general "interest").
Calculation methodology	For the reporting year, projects with business entities involved in result development are identified. Unique business entities are counted (1 entity = 1), without duplication where the same entity participates in multiple projects/activities. Deduplication is performed using a unique business identifier (e.g. TIN/company registration number or company name + registered address) and the rule that each entity is counted once per year within the indicator.
Data source	Project applications and contracts; descriptions of work packages and deliverables; minutes of technical meetings; joint specifications; repositories/commit histories (where relevant); confirmations of participation; MoUs/NDAs/Lols.
Data collection frequency	Annually (during project implementation and at final reporting).
Responsible institution	Project beneficiaries (documentation and evidence); Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (consolidation and verification).
Link to objectives	Strengthening science–industry collaboration, increasing the relevance of research, and building a pipeline for subsequent transfer and application of project results and contribution to innovation capacities.

SO1 – NUMBER OF MODERNISED RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES (RI)

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of research infrastructures (equipment, laboratories, platforms or facilities) that have been modernised with support from measures under SO1.
Unit of measurement	Number (RI units)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1 instruments focused on research infrastructure modernisation and open access; related support to EU projects (Instrument 3) where it contributes to the preparation and/or implementation of activities related to research infrastructure.
Scope of the indicator	Research infrastructures with completed modernisation activities within the reporting period (2026–2030).
Calculation methodology	Counting unique research infrastructure units meeting the eligibility criteria. Each RI is counted once per year in which the modernisation is completed and verified (including commissioning/installation and publication of open access rules, where applicable).
Data source	Financing contracts; beneficiary reports; commissioning/installation records; inventories of equipment; evidence of open access (e.g. rules, public web announcements).
Data collection frequency	Annually (tracking by call/contract year).
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (coordination and verification); beneficiary institutions (reporting and evidence provision).
Link to objectives	Contributes to strengthening the capacity and accessibility of research infrastructure, as a prerequisite for higher-quality research and increased international competitiveness.

SO1 – NUMBER OF NEWLY SECURED INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIPS IN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES AND RELEVANT BODIES

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of new international memberships (or formally secured access arrangements) through which Montenegro and/or its institutions obtain access to international research infrastructures and/or relevant governance or expert bodies during the reporting period.
Unit of measurement	Number (memberships)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1 instruments supporting internationalisation and linkage with international research infrastructures; administrative and/or expert support for preparation (Instrument 3), where relevant.
Scope of the indicator	New memberships, accession agreements or access contracts, and first-time payment of membership fees that enter into force for the first time in the reporting year. Annual target values apply for the period 2026–2030.
Calculation methodology	Counting unique new memberships concluded within the reporting year (e.g. signed agreement, accession decision, or first membership fee payment activating membership). Renewals or extensions of existing memberships are not counted.
Data source	Membership agreements/decisions; financial documentation on membership fees; official correspondence with research infrastructures/bodies; MESI records.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (formalisation and records); participating institutions (documentation provision).
Link to objectives	Strengthens integration into the European and international research area and enables access to knowledge, resources and networks.

SO1 – NUMBER OF SUPPORTED PROJECT APPLICATIONS TO EU PROGRAMMES

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of project applications submitted to EU programmes (e.g. Horizon Europe and other relevant EU programmes) that were prepared and/or submitted with financial and/or expert support under Instrument 3.
Unit of measurement	Number (project applications)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	INSTRUMENT 3 – Support to national teams for the preparation and implementation of EU projects.
Scope of the indicator	Applications formally submitted (“submitted”) through EU electronic systems; includes both coordinator and partner applications; annual target values apply for the period 2026–2030.
Calculation methodology	Counting unique applications submitted in the reporting year based on official submission confirmation. Resubmissions are counted as separate applications only if submitted under a different call or cut-off deadline.
Data source	Administrative records of Instrument 3; support agreements/decisions; EU portal submission confirmations; beneficiary reports.
Data collection frequency	Quarterly (internal monitoring) and annually (reporting).
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (Instrument implementation); beneficiaries (submission confirmations and reports).
Link to objectives	Directly measures strengthened capacity for participation in EU programmes and an increase in the number of high-quality project applications.

SO1 – NUMBER OF USERS FROM THE BUSINESS, SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLIC SECTORS USING RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH OPEN ACCESS

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of unique users (legal entities and/or individuals), in accordance with open access rules, from the business, scientific and public sectors who have gained access to and used modernised research infrastructure through open access during the reporting period.
Unit of measurement	Number (unique users)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	SO1 instruments for the modernisation and opening of research infrastructure (open access), and accompanying measures supporting the use of research infrastructure.
Scope of the indicator	Use of research infrastructure through reservation/booking systems, access logs, contracted services, access tokens, or other formal access mechanisms; annual target values apply for the period 2026–2030.
Calculation methodology	Aggregation of unique users per year, without duplication. Recommendation: use a unique identifier (tax ID/registration number for institutions and a unique user ID for individuals) and sector classification (business/scientific/public).
Data source	Access logs and reservation systems of research infrastructure; open access records; service contracts/invoices; beneficiary reports.
Data collection frequency	Annually (with semi-annual internal monitoring).
Responsible institution	Beneficiary institutions (data collection and records); Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (consolidation and control).
Link to objectives	Demonstrates the actual use and socio-economic impact of investments in research infrastructure through open access.

SO1 – NUMBER OF HORIZON EUROPE PROJECT PROPOSALS FORMALLY ACCEPTED FOR EVALUATION (PARTICIPATION OF SO1 SUPPORT BENEFICIARIES)

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of Horizon Europe project proposals involving at least one beneficiary of support under SO1 (as partner or coordinator) that, following eligibility and admissibility checks, have been formally accepted for evaluation.
Unit of measurement	Number (Horizon Europe proposals accepted for evaluation)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	Instrument 3 (support for the preparation of EU projects) and other relevant SO1 instruments that strengthen the readiness of teams to apply to Horizon Europe.
Scope of the indicator	Only proposals that successfully pass formal checks and enter the evaluation procedure; annual target values apply for the period 2026–2030.
Calculation methodology	Counting of unique proposals with the status “admissible/eligible” or “under evaluation” in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. Condition: verified decision/status and proof of SO1 beneficiary participation (e.g. contract, decision, coordinator/partner confirmation).
Data source	EU Funding & Tenders Portal status records; coordinator/partner confirmations; administrative records of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation and SO1 support beneficiaries.
Data collection frequency	Annually, after completion of evaluation procedures for the relevant cycles/calls.
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (monitoring of SO1 support beneficiaries and status verification); beneficiaries (submission of evidence).
Link to objectives	Measures the quality and administrative soundness of Horizon Europe proposals, which is a key precondition for increasing success rates in EU programmes.

SO2 – NUMBER OF SUPPORTED DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of unique doctoral candidates who, in the reporting year, are beneficiaries of doctoral scholarships financed under SO2 (Doctoral Scholarship Programme).
Unit of measurement	Number (persons)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	Instrument 1 – Doctoral Scholarship Programme.
What the indicator includes	Active doctoral scholarships supported by a signed contract and disbursed funds in the reporting year; annual target values apply for the period 2026–2030.
Calculation methodology	Counting of unique individuals (no duplication across calls). Doctoral candidates are counted in the year in which the scholarship is active (recommendation: clearly define the reference rule, e.g. status as of 31 December and/or the average over the year).
Data source	Scholarship contracts and decisions; payment records; mentor/doctoral candidate progress reports; administrative database of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Data collection frequency	Annually (with monitoring by call).
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation (implementation and records); beneficiaries/host institutions (submission of reports).
Link to objectives	Contributes to rejuvenation and strengthening of research teams and to the development of a new generation of researchers.

SO2 – NUMBER OF SUPPORTED POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

Field	Description
Type of indicator	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of unique postdoctoral researchers who, in the reporting year, are beneficiaries of grants under Instrument 2 (Postdoctoral Research for Excellence).
Unit of measurement	Number (persons)
Programmes/instruments contributing to the indicator	Instrument 2 – Postdoctoral Research for Excellence.
What the indicator includes	Postdoctoral researchers with an active grant contract and confirmed engagement on the project in the reporting year; annual target values apply for the period 2026–2030.
Calculation methodology	Counting of unique individuals in a given year (no duplication across calls). If a grant spans multiple years, the postdoctoral researcher is counted in each year of active engagement, unless otherwise defined by a specific reference rule.
Data source	Grant agreements; reports from host institutions and postdoctoral researchers; payment records; administrative database of the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation.
Data collection frequency	Annually.
Responsible institution	Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation; host institutions (administrative support and reporting).
Link to objectives	Strengthens researcher independence and international competitiveness and contributes to the development of future scientific leaders.

SO2 – NUMBER OF IMPLEMENTED SHORT-TERM MOBILITIES OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS

Field	Description
Indicator type	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of implemented short-term mobilities (up to 3 months) of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers financed through Instrument 3 (Short-term mobility for researchers) in the reporting year.
Unit of measure	Number (mobilities)
Programme/instrument delivering the indicator	Instrument 3 – Short-term mobility for researchers
What the indicator includes	Mobilities with approved funding and completed stays, supported by submitted evidence and reports, for the given reporting year and the value of the table (2026–2030).
Calculation methodology	Counting completed mobilities within the year (one mobility = one stay). If the same person has multiple mobilities, each is counted separately.
Data source	Decisions on mobility funding, travel orders/expense reports, confirmations from host institutions, final reports of beneficiaries, MESI records.
Data collection frequency	Annually (after completion of mobility).
Responsible institution	MESI; beneficiaries (submit evidence); host institutions (confirmations).
Link to objectives	Contribution to internationalisation and enhancement of research competences through mobility and networking.

SO4 – NUMBER OF UNIQUE PUBLIC INSTITUTION PARTNERS PER CALL

Field	Description
Indicator type	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of unique public institutions participating as formal partners in projects financed under SO4 within a single call. "Unique public institution partners" are counted at the project level; the same public institution is counted only once per call year, even if it participates in multiple projects. If the same institution participates in several calls over different years, it may be counted again for each call, unless otherwise specified.
Unit of measure	Number (institutions)
Programme/ instrument delivering the indicator	SO4 instruments: Applied research for societal impact
What the indicator includes	Public institutions (e.g. ministries, agencies, hospitals, schools, municipalities, public services) with signed partnership agreements/contracts for projects under the respective call.
Calculation methodology	For each call, the indicator equals the number of unique public institutions listed in contracts/project applications (without duplication of the same institution within the same call).
Data source	Project applications, funding contracts, partner lists, MESI records.
Data collection frequency	Per call (after contracting) and annually aggregated.
Responsible institution	MESI; project beneficiaries (submission of documentation).
Link to objectives	Measures the involvement of the public sector and the relevance of research for public policies and services.

SO4 – NUMBER OF APPROVED PROJECTS WITH PLANNED FINAL TRL ≥ 2

Field	Description
Indicator name	Number of approved projects with planned final TRL ≥ 2
Indicator type	Immediate result (Output)
Definition	Number of projects approved and contracted under the instrument which, in the project application and/or funding agreement, define a planned final Technology Readiness Level (TRL) at project completion equal to or greater than 2.
Unit of measure	Number (projects)
Programme/instrument delivering the indicator	Instrument 1 – Programme for the Development of Research Ideas and Concepts
What the indicator includes	Projects focused on early-stage development of ideas/concepts with a documented planned final TRL.
Calculation methodology	For each contracted project, the planned final TRL is recorded as stated in the application/contract. Projects with a planned final TRL ≥ 2 are counted. Each project is counted once (unique project ID).
Data source	Final project reports, evaluation records, TRL assessments, MESI records.
Data collection frequency	Per contracting cycle (per call), with annual consolidation.
Responsible institution	MESI (criteria and verification); project beneficiaries (supporting evidence).
Link to objectives	Contributes to strengthening early-stage, conceptual research and building a pipeline towards application.

SO4 – NUMBER OF PROJECTS READY TO PROGRESS TO A HIGHER TRL PHASE AFTER COMPLETION (E.G. TRL ≥ 3)

Field	Description
Indicator type	Medium-term result (Outcome)
Definition	Number of projects whose planned final TRL ≥ 2 and which, after project completion, are assessed as ready to move to a higher TRL (minimum TRL 3), i.e. have a validated concept and a defined next-step plan enabling application to a PoC/prototyping phase or to applied R&D through the next instrument/call. The value is determined at two points: 6 months after project completion (outcome) and 24 months after completion (ex post/final).
Unit of measure	Number (projects)
Programme/ instrument delivering the indicator	Instrument – Development of Research Ideas and Concepts
What the indicator includes	Projects assessed as “ready to advance” if they meet at least 2 of the following criteria (recommended), supported by final reports: clearly defined concept and application/problem addressed; validated key assumptions; defined requirements and plan for TRL 3 (PoC plan); identification of the next instrument/call for funding; identification of partners/users or partnership strategy.
Calculation methodology	At project completion: independent verification (MESI/panel) reviews final reports and assigns the status “ready to progress to TRL ≥ 3” (yes/no) based on predefined criteria. The indicator equals the number of projects with this status. Ex post (12–24 months): status is confirmed if the project progresses to a higher TRL (e.g. continuation through the next instrument) or if documented TRL assessment shows TRL ≥ 3 at the time of acceptance of the application/contract. Each project is counted once per measurement point; no double counting.
Data source	Final project reports and annexes; evaluation records/panel assessments; call/contract databases; ex post analyses and evidence of follow-up.
Data collection frequency	At project completion (regular reporting); ex post: 6 months and/or 12–24 months after completion.
Responsible institution	Project beneficiaries; MESI (guidelines and verification).
Link to objectives	Directly measures whether the TRL 1–2 instrument strengthens the research pipeline by ensuring that ideas and concepts do not remain “on paper”, but become ready for the next development phase and entry into advanced technological development, commercialisation, or EU programmes.



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