North Adriatic
Smart Communities
Hydrogen Accelerator

Win a grant of up to 60,000 euro with a funding rate 100%..!

Ready to join hydrogen value chains in the North Adriatic?

Apply to NASCHA Open Calls for cascade funding under the I3 Instrument

What?

North Adriatic Smart Communities Hydrogen Accelerator (NASCHA) announces Open Calls for proposals to SMEs for filling in the gaps in the emerging hydrogen value chains: **manufacturing**, **urban areas**, **mobility** and **sustainable irrigation** for **agriculture**.

The Calls support innovative solutions proposed by SMEs in line with the overarching goals of the initiative, showing high Technology Readiness Level. SMEs can join the consortium to advance innovative solutions towards industrialisation and enhance their investment attractiveness.

For whom?

Technology developers and component suppliers, hydrogen-related solution providers as well as digital and data technology solutions providers and industrial integrators residing in one of the eligible cohesion regions of the EU **can apply individually or as a consortium**.

Specifically, SMEs are eligible from **NASCHA partner countries: Slovenia**, **Croatia** and **Italy** (Friuli Venezia Giulia, Lazio, Umbria, Lombardia) as well as from the **less-developed regions of other EU Member States**.

Open calls key dates

1st NASCHA Open Call
OPENS 12th November 2026
Closes **18th January 2027**

2nd NASCHA Open Call
EXPECTED LAUNCH Q3 2027

Selection process

Applicants will be selected on a basis of the evaluation of their project proposals and will be granted upon the fulfilment of their project action plan, participation in the capacity-building activities and results dissemination.

For NASCHA Open Calls, each applicant may receive **up to €60,000**, depending on the scope and needs of the proposed project, as well as the evaluation of its strategic and technical fit with the relevant hydrogen value chains and pilot areas.

Selected project proposals will be **funded by 100% of declared eligible costs by the FSTP**.

NASCHA is co-financed by the European Union through the I3 Instrument implemented by EISMEA – European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency. It was granted under the Call Interregional Innovation Investments Strand 2a (I3-2024-INV2a). The Agency implements the European Innovation Council and manages other EU programmes focusing on supporting SMEs, innovation and the Single Market, strengthening innovation through advisory and financial support and steering projects in common areas of smart specialisation towards successful commercialisation, growth and scale-up.

NASCHA's pilots in the North Adratic



NASCHA accelerates **transnational innovation in the North Adriatic Hydrogen Ecosystem** by validating and demonstrating renewable hydrogen (H2) technologies **in 3 territories**: Croatia, Slovenia, and Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy).

It aims to strengthen the **transnational hydrogen value chain**, support the standardisation and transfer of green hydrogen technologies across regions, lay the groundwork for a sustainable, competitive hydrogen economy in Europe's cross-border territories.

CROSS-CUTTING TECHNOLOGY PILOTS

Patria Composite - Hydrogen storage
Storage vessels, monitoring and traceability; certification and manufacturing readiness.

CTS H2 - HydroHub
Modular hydrogen distribution and refuelling, storage-buffer systems and service models.

Technology development with potential applications across different sectors and regions.

Consortium and collaboration

The consortium involves 20 private and public organisations spanning Croatia, Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region (FVG) (Italy) and Slovenia, led by **Area Science Park**.

STEMwise, CTS H2, Cres, OTRA, ECUBES, Inkubator Sežana, Jožef Stefan Institute, Municipality of Celje, Energetika Celje, Incom, ETRA, Ajdovščina, RRA Porin, SIST, Patria Composite, IBAN, META Group, Gm Circularity and University of Zagreb Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Municipality of Ajdovscina, Municipality of Cres.

Open Call information is **available on** the **NASCHA websites.**

Follow us for **latest updates:** **@NASCHA**

nascha.eu

NASCHA partner responsible for the Open Calls: **META Group**
For more information contact: nascha@meta-group.com

Co-funded by the European Union

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