

# Supporting programmes for SME competitiveness in Hungary

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# SME and R+I EDIOP PLUS are covering PA8 areas



**SME Development**  
**2,181 mEUR**



**R+D+I**  
**1,398 mEUR**



**Employment**  
**740 mEUR**



**Youth Guarantee**  
**527 mEUR**



**Higher Education,  
Vocational training**  
**440mEUR**



**STEP**  
**245 mEUR**

# The main objectives of the program, which define the key content elements of the priorities and SME calls.

## Increase the productivity and added value of SMEs

Target: By 2030, achieve a GVA per employee of EUR 22.500.

## Increase the employment rate

Target: By 2030, the employment rate should reach 85%.

1. Territorial commitments:
  - **65% of funding allocated to the 4 most disadvantaged regions**
  - Dedicated funding for Budapest;
2. SME development programmes - **Financial instruments are general financing** tools  
Exception - Non-refundable grant can be used:
  - micro and small enterprises in the 4 disadvantaged regions;
  - R+I projects;
3. Other general requirements for SME calls
  - introduction of cutting-edge, modern technologies is a must;
  - Supporting complex projects (green, digital);
  - No sectorial restrictions
4. Economic development appears in several OPs: RRF, EEEOP+, DROP+

# Call for proposals aiming SME competitiveness

## SME Development priority

|          | Title of the call                                                                    | Total budget<br>(m EUR) | Status                        |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.2.4-24 | Supporting micro and small companies in the lagging behind regions and micro regions | 38402                   | Available                     |
| 1.4.3-24 | SME Technology Development Loan                                                      | 398.2                   | Available                     |
| 1.4.4-24 | SME Technology Development Loan - Budapest                                           | 187.38                  | Available                     |
| 1.4.5-24 | SME Combined loan (loan + grant)                                                     | 398.38                  | Available                     |
| 1.1.6-25 | Supporting qualified cluster management organisation                                 | 15.36                   | Under preparation<br>2025 Q4. |

## **Support for Micro and Small Enterprises in the most lagging behind regions and Free Enterprise Zones**

### **Purpose of the Call**

Economic development at lagging behind regions and strengthening their population retention capacity through the improvement of business

### **Eligible Applicants**

#### **A micro or small enterprise that:**

- Has at least one year track record,
- Has at least 1 employee,

### **Implementation Location**

4 lagging behind NUTS 2 regions (Southern Great Plain, Southern Transdanubia, Northern Great Plain, Northern Hungary) and most lagging behind micro regions (Free Enterprise Zones)

### **Amount of Support, intensity rate**

- Support: EUR 12,800 – 307,200
- Intensity rate: max. 50%;
- Pre-financing rate: 25%

### **Eligible Activities**

- Purchasing new equipment and machinery, and establishment of new technological systems and capacities
- Information Technology development
- Real Estate Investment (modernization, expansion, construction)
- Activities supporting the implementation (SCO)

# Call for proposals aiming SME competitiveness

## Research and Innovation priority

|          | Title of the Call                                            | Total budget<br>(m EUR) | Status                               |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2.1.1-24 | Support for innovation projects in focus areas               | 273.68                  | Available                            |
| 2.1.3-24 | Supporting SME Innovation Capacity (process innovation)      | 192.01                  | Available                            |
| 2.1.4-25 | Supporting the market launch of SME Innovations              | 153.61                  | Under preparation-<br>September 2025 |
| 2.1.5-25 | Life Sciences Catalyst Program                               | 38.40                   | Under preparation-<br>2025 Q4        |
| 2.1.6-25 | Large Enterprise Innovation Program in focus areas           | 25.60                   | Under preparation-<br>September 2025 |
| 2.5.1-25 | Early-Stage Research and Development Venture Capital Program | 29.06                   | Under preparation-<br>2025 Q4        |

# EDIOP Plus-2.1.1-24 - Support for innovation projects in focus areas

## Purpose of the Call

Supporting product and technology development in line with the Hungarian S3 and RDI strategy in the following focus areas:

- Healthy life – biotech, pharmaceutical
- Green transition, circular economy
- Digital transformation

## Eligible Applicants

- SMEs and large enterprises (individual or consortia)
- Only as a consortia member: Universities (except for model changing universities), research organisation

## Amount of Support, intensity rate

**Support:** 256,000 EUR – 3.07 mEUR

**Intensity:** 40-80% (depending on type of research, type of beneficiary)

**Pre-financing:** 30%

## Supporting activity

- Applied research
- Experimental research
- Additional indirect costs supporting a research and development project;

## Submission

1. phase: November 26, 2024 – January 29, 2025

**2. phase: November 4 – 18, 2025**

**3. phase: February 24, - March 10, 2026**

# EDIOP Plus - 2.1.3 - 24 - Supporting the Innovation Capacity of SMEs

## Purpose of the Call

Support for Small-Scale Business Process Innovation Projects

- More efficient work methods
- Implementation or adoption of a new or significantly improved business process

## Eligible Applicants

Micro and Small Enterprises

## Amount of Support, intensity rate

**Support:** EUR 51,200 – 64,000;

**Intensity rate:** max 70%

**Pre-financing:** 30%

## Eligible Activities

- Manufacturing Process Innovation (implementation or further development of measures that increase the efficiency of production and manufacturing processes)
- Business Model Innovation
- Marketing and Sales Innovation
- Organizational Innovation
- Logistics Innovation

## Submission Eligibility

1st phase: November 4, 2024 – November 12, 2024

2nd phase: March 25, 2025 – May 8, 2025

3rd phase: September 9, 2025 – September 23, 2025

**4th phase: Under preparation, Q4 2025 – Q1 2026**



# Cluster development initiatives in Hungary I.

**Cluster Strategy** - Adoption by the Government – 08/11/2023.

Main goals of the Strategy

1. There should be at least **1 cooperation with outstanding innovation capacity and international visibility** in Hungary's main **key industries**, bringing together the main players in the (sub)industry
2. By 2030, **10% of the total gross domestic value added** will be generated by **cooperating** economic players

# Cluster development initiatives in Hungary II.

## Tools for reaching the main goals of the strategy



**To strengthen the culture of motivation and cooperation**



**To make business cooperation attractive**



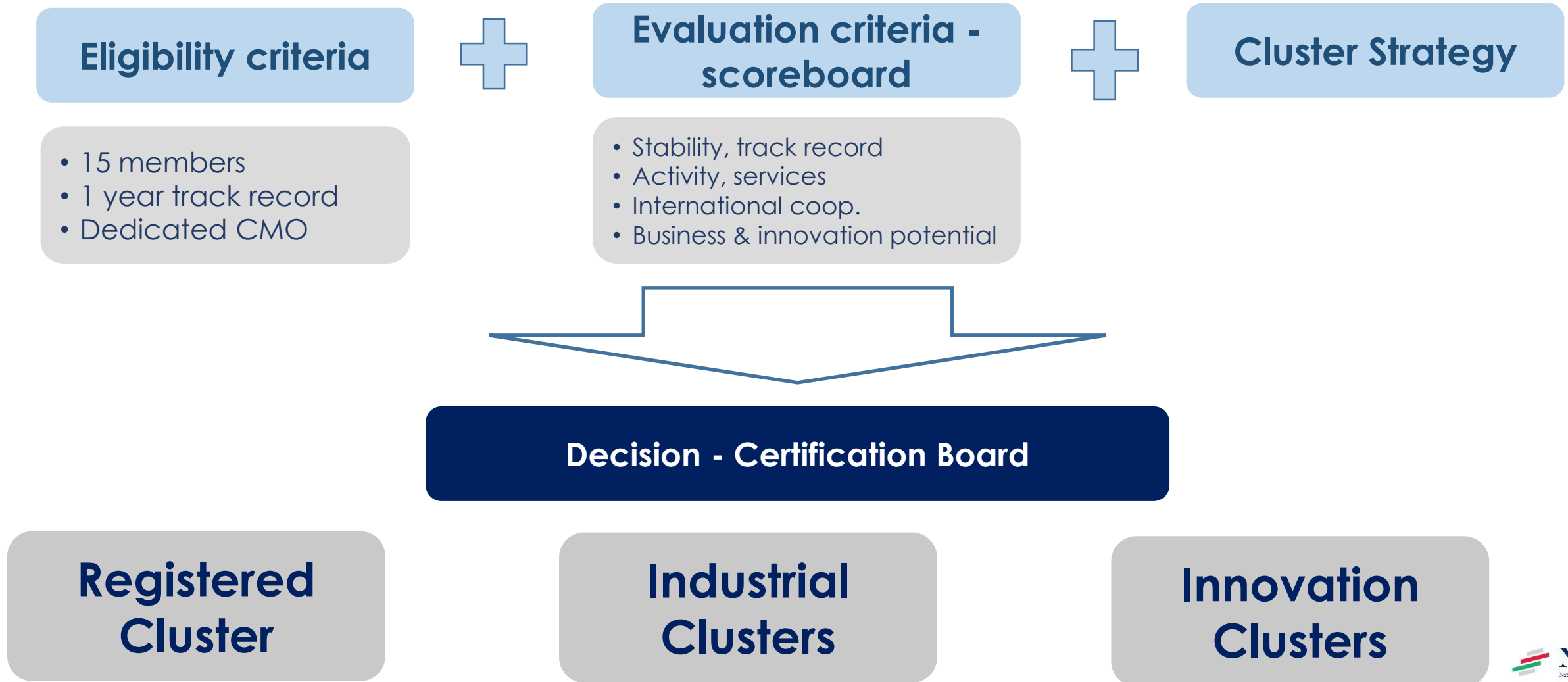
**To promote innovation cooperation**



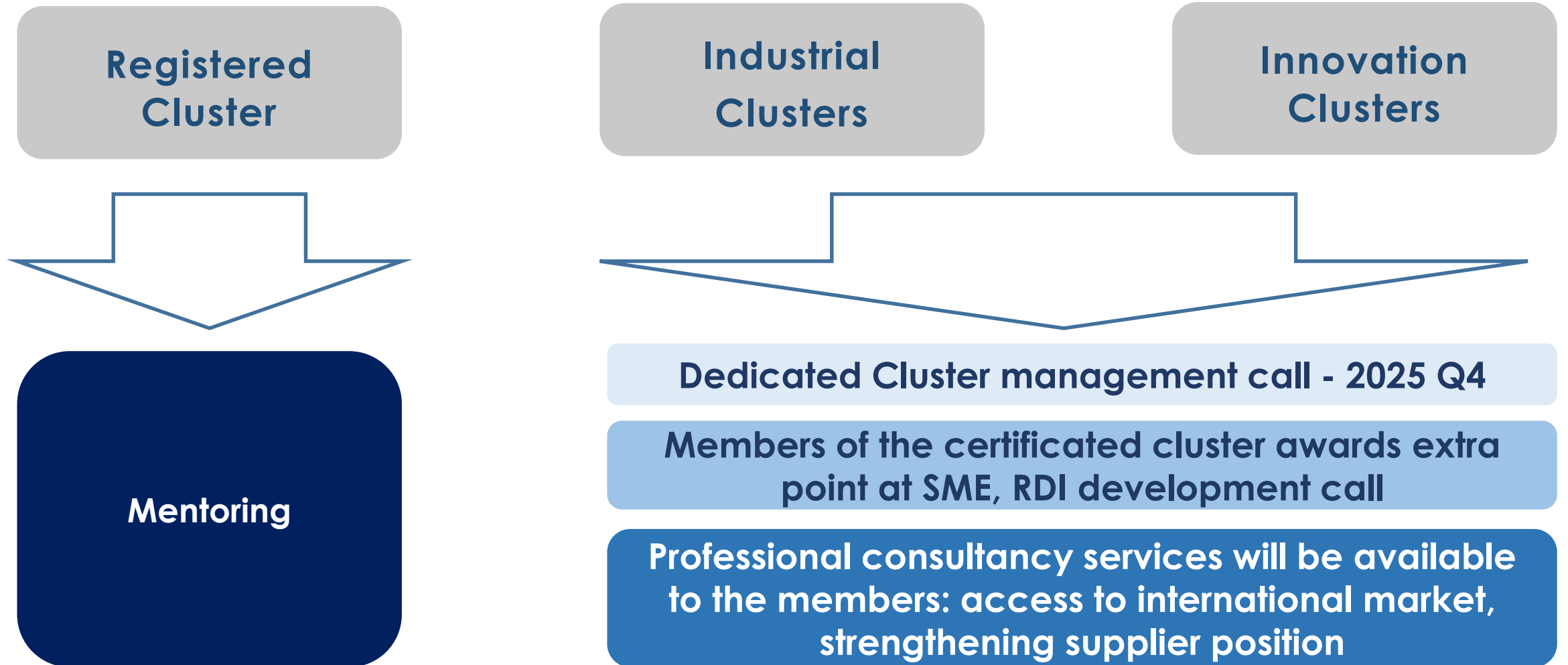
**To create the appropriate policy and regulatory environment**

# Main steps of the implementation I.

## 1. Qualification of the existing clusters in Hungary



# Main steps of the implementation II.



**Thank you for  
your attention.**