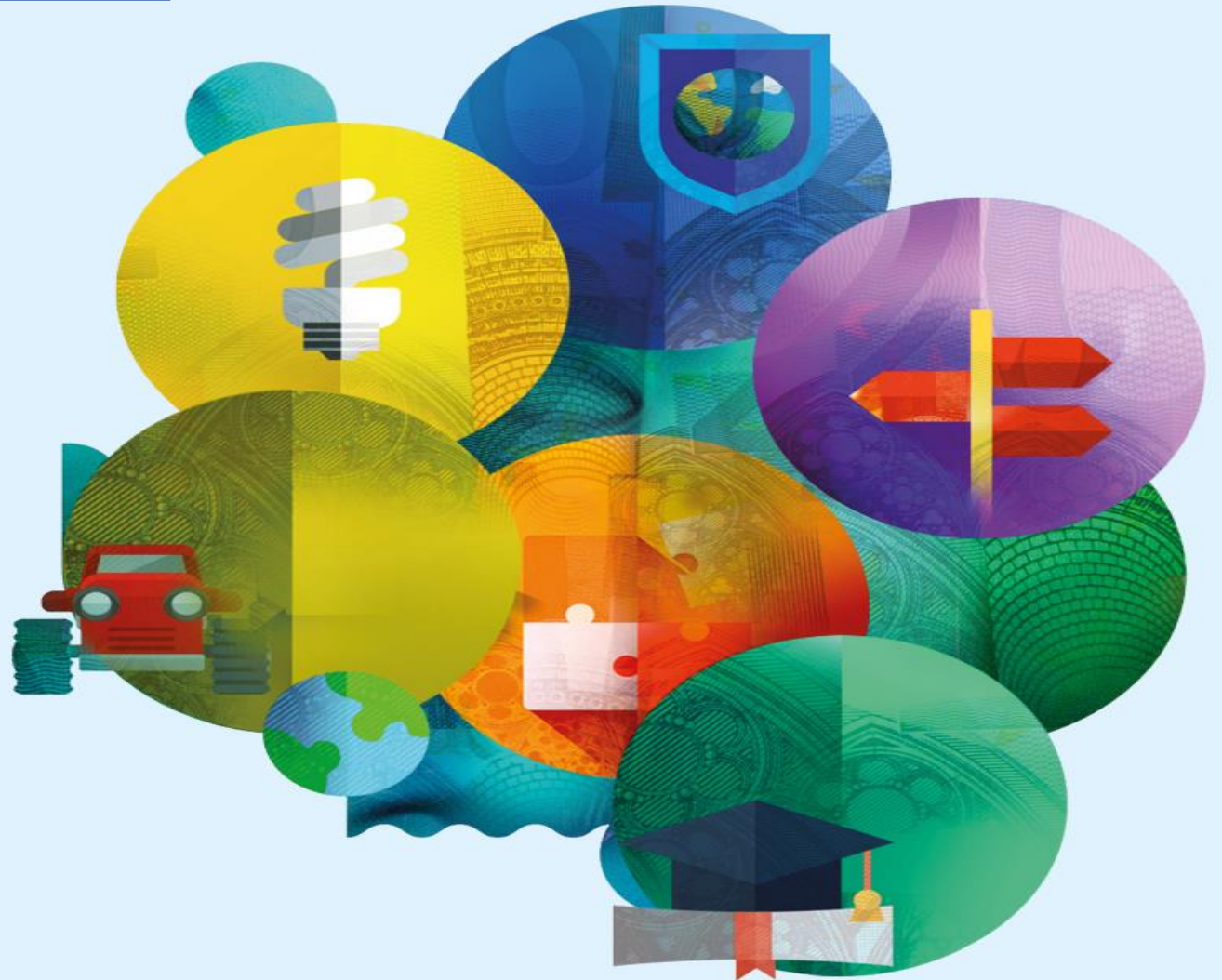
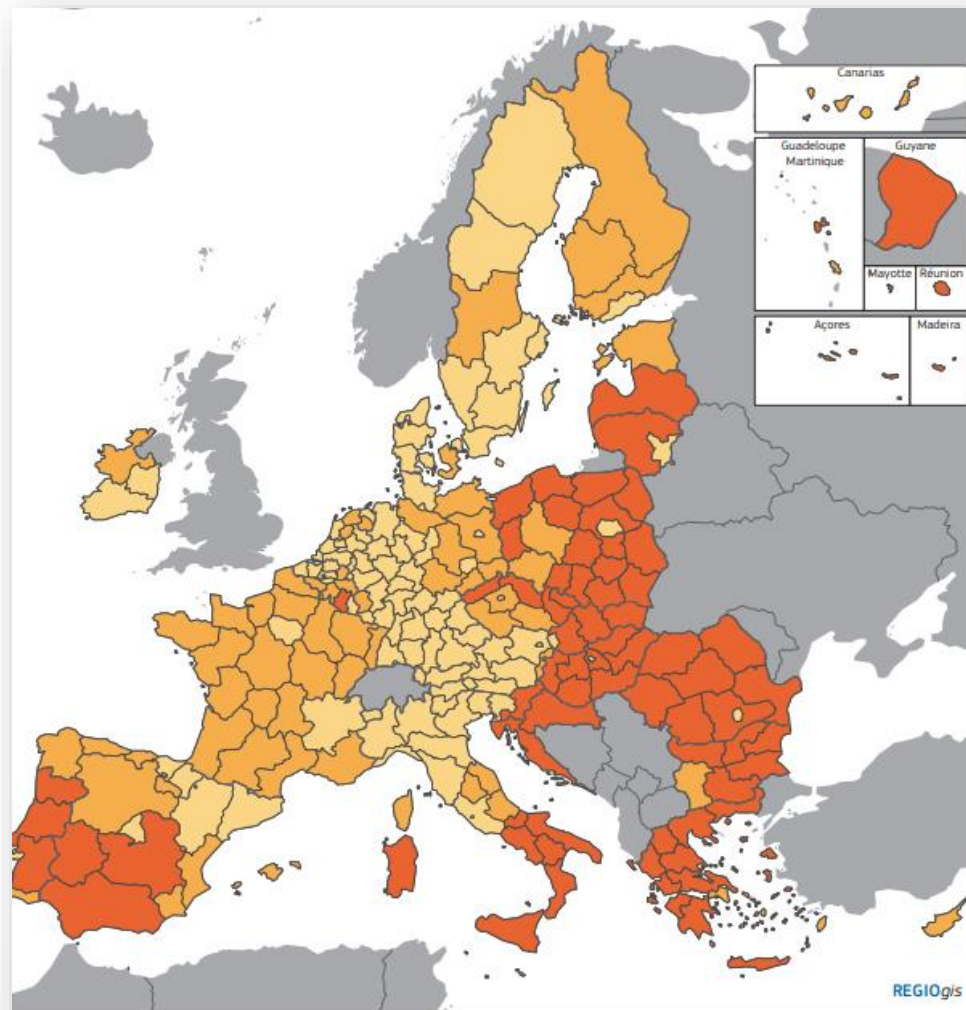


# EU Cohesion Policy Support to SMEs and Innovation

*Silvia Álvarez Santos*  
*Policy Analyst*  
*Directorate-General for EU regional and urban policy*  
*Unit G1 - Smart and Sustainable Growth*



# Cohesion policy - the EU's main investment policy



- Art. 174 TFEU: “reducing disparities between the levels of development of the various regions”
- €379 billion\* (EU) earmarked for 2021-2027
- Shared management: implemented by regional / national managing authorities

\* ERDF, CF, Interreg, ESF+ and JTF

## Category of regions for cohesion policy (ERDF and ESF+), 2021–2027

- Less developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) less than 75% of the EU-27 average)
- Transition regions (GDP per head (PPS) between 75% and 100% of the EU-27 average)
- More developed regions (GDP per head (PPS) above 100% of the EU-27 average)

# Cohesion Policy Objectives 2021 - 2027



A smarter Europe (innovative & smart economic transformation)



A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)



A more connected Europe (mobility)



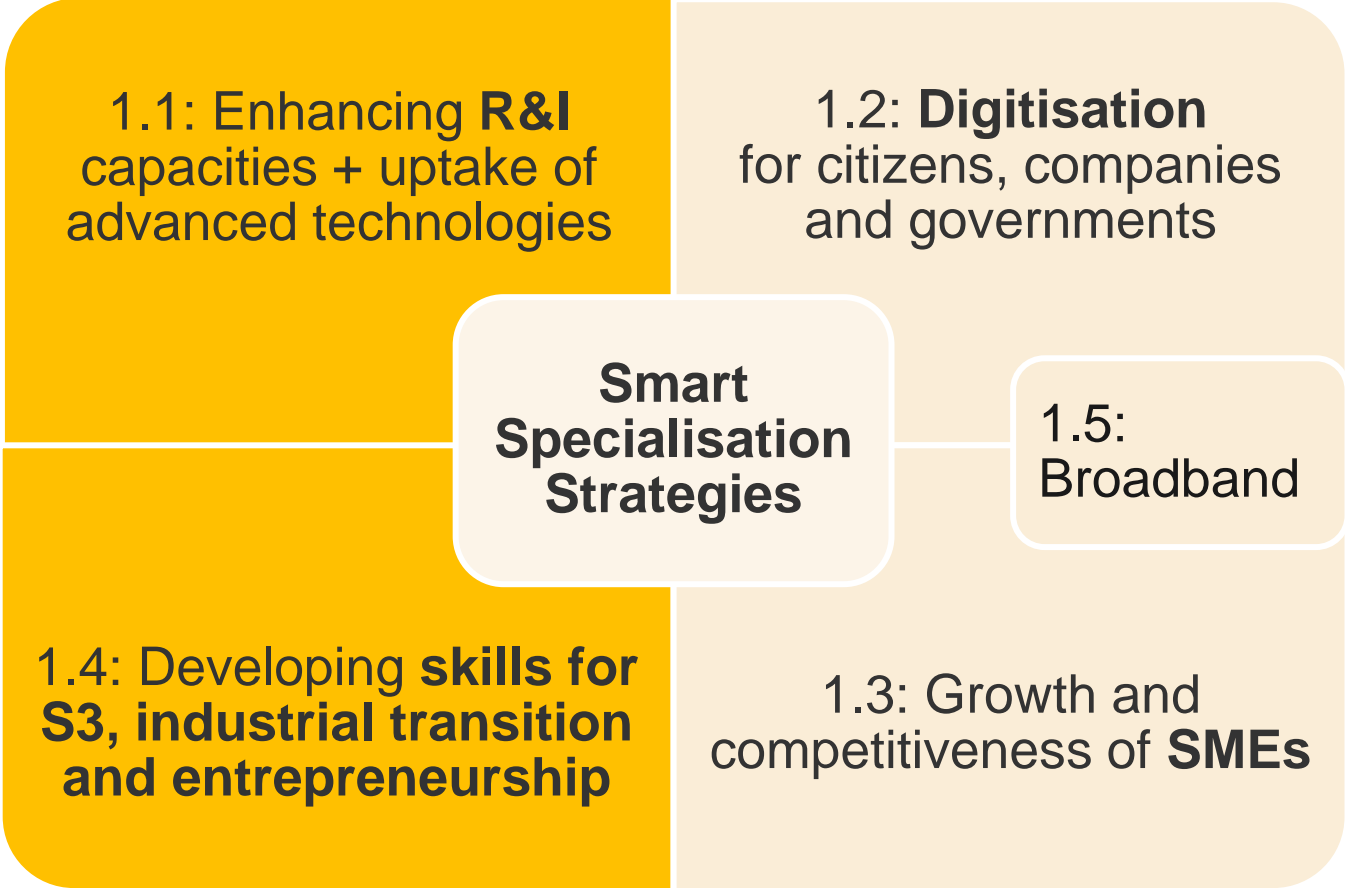
A more social Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights)



A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

# European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

POLICY OBJECTIVE 1: A more competitive and smarter Europe



**Interregional innovation investments**



# Smart Specialisation: concept and strategies

**Smart Specialisation:** An innovation policy concept designed to enhance regional innovation by enabling regions to focus on their strengths and comparative advantages.

- ❑ **Strategic Impact:** Smart Specialisation has significantly influenced the design of innovation strategies in European regions from 2010, fostering cooperation at various levels.
- ❑ **The three pillars of S3** - Participation, Prioritisation, and Localisation - are now integral to EU regional policy and development strategies.

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/s3-community-of-practice_en)



# S3 Observatory: Agrifood

Link to the profile



Link to priorities and keywords



Link to the strategy:



The screenshot shows the S3 Observatory interface. On the left, there is a 'Filter by' section with several dropdown menus: 'Keywords', 'Territorial level', 'Economic classification', 'Scientific classification', and 'European innovation Ecosystem'. The 'European innovation Ecosystem' dropdown is highlighted with a red circle and contains the option '1 Agri-Food'. To the right of the filters is a map of Europe with green shaded regions. Below the map, there is a footer with text: 'Webtools + © EC-GISCO + Leaflet | © OpenStreetMap © EuroGeographics © UN-FAO for the administrative boundaries | Disclaimer'.


Region name (NUTS ID)	Priority	Strategy
+ <a href="#">Wallonia (BE3)</a>	FutureAgri-Food chains and innovative management of the environment (Sustainable farming,ecosystem services,food traceability,biodiversity conservation)	<a href="#">Smart Specialisation Strategy of Wallonia 2021-2027</a>
+ <a href="#">Croatia (HR)</a>	Sustainable and circular food (Sustainable management,sustainable development,agriculture,mariculture,forestry)	<a href="#">Smart Specialisation Strategy 2029</a>
+ <a href="#">Cyprus (CY)</a>	Ecosystems: agrifood, renewable energy, maritime and shipping (Farming equipment,farming tools,agroecology principles,ship ownership,ship management,shipping insurance)	<a href="#">Cyprus Smart Specialisation Strategy 2030</a>

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/assets/s3-observatory/index\\_en.html](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/assets/s3-observatory/index_en.html)

# Regional and country profiles

Download the full document about Catalonia


[PDF document](#) 

 Spain






## Catalonia(English)

Cataluña(National language)

NUTS Level: **NUTS 2** - NUTS CODE/MS:ES51



### Statistics

-  Area: 32110 km2
-  Population: 7679192
-  GDP at current prices (M EUR): 229417.94
- GDP per capita at current prices (EUR): 31700
- % of National GDP: No information available.
-  % of Unemployment: 9.7%
-  Regional GERD (%): 1.51 %

## Scientific classification - NABS digit 1 and 2



- o 8 - Agriculture 6 - Industrial production and technology
  - : 06.57 - Manufacture of computer, electronic and optical products

## Thematic platforms and partnership

### Industrial Modernisation

Wireless ICT	Partner	<a href="#">More info</a> →
Water Smart Territories	Partner	<a href="#">More info</a> →
CLUSSPORT (SPORT & VITALITY)	Partner	<a href="#">More info</a> →
Smart Regional Investments in Textile Innovation	Partner	<a href="#">More info</a> →
Photonics	Partner	<a href="#">More info</a> →
Medical Technologies	Partner	<a href="#">More info</a> →
Hydrogen Valleys S3 Partnership	Partner	<a href="#">More info</a> →

### Ecosystem label

 Aerospace & Defence →	No	 Healthcare →	Yes
 Agri-food →	No	 Mobility, Transport & Automotive →	Yes
 Construction →	No	 Proximity Economy →	No

## Contact points

Name	Position
Juan Luis Aparicio Romero	Generalitat de Catalunya

## Economic classification - Nace section and division

- A - Agriculture, forestry and fishing
  - o A.01 - Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities
  - o A.02 - Forestry and logging
  - o A.03 - Fishing and aquaculture

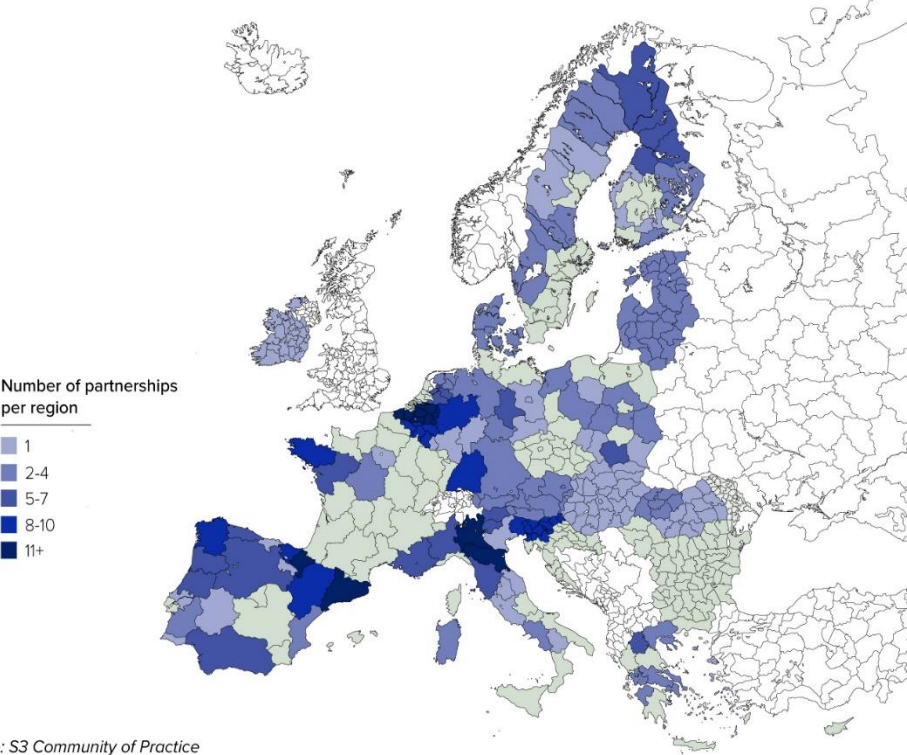
# Interregional Innovation Collaboration: connecting regions

Cohesion policy seeks to foster interregional cooperation by:

- ❑ **Enabling condition:** Inclusion of measures to enhance cooperation with partners outside a Member State in smart specialization strategies.
- ❑ Facilitation of cooperation through **thematic S3 platforms and partnerships**
- ❑ Opportunities for interregional collaboration through **INTERREG programmes.**
- ❑ Support for **interregional innovation investments** and capacity building via the I3 instrument



# Interregional Collaboration in Thematic Smart Specialisation Platforms and Partnerships



## S3 Thematic Platforms



Agri-food



Energy



Industrial Modernisation



Sustainable Blue Economy

# The Agri-food platform

- ❑ **Regional Collaboration:** Enhancing agricultural and food sectors by leveraging regional expertise and forming smart specialisation partnerships.
- ❑ **Innovation and Investment:** Initiating new value chains and investment projects in areas such as high-tech farming, food traceability, and packaging to align regional strategies.
- ❑ **Societal Impact:** Targeting co-investment in areas with significant business, societal, and ecological benefits at both regional and European levels.

→ **8 Agri-food partnerships**, details on [S3 CoP website](#)

**New Partnership Opportunities:** If you are looking to join or form a new interregional value chain partnership, apply to the [Call for Expression of Interest](#) or contact the S3 CoP Secretariat at [partnerships@s3-cop.eu](mailto:partnerships@s3-cop.eu) for details.



Agri-food



# I3 Instrument – Interregional Innovation Investments



## INTERREGIONAL

- Creating links between EU regions around **shared or complementary smart specialisation (S3)** areas and involving all components of the regional or national innovation ecosystems
- Supporting the development of value chains in less developed regions



*The interregional component provides a unique opportunity to cross-fertilise actual instruments and facilitate the market uptake of the solutions developed.*

● Myriam Martin, HealthChain project



## INNOVATION

- Testing, demonstration, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication, adaptation of existing prototypes
- Accelerating innovation, bringing innovative solutions and new products in:
  - **Digital transition**
  - **Green transition**
  - **Smart manufacturing**



*The programme helped us establish the first interregional green hydrogen value chain in South Estonia and Northern Latvia for activating the emerging hydrogen and providing a blueprint for setting up green hydrogen ecosystems in other regions.*

● Jaanus Tamm, H2 Value project project



## INVESTMENTS

- Financial and advisory support for joint innovation projects
- Smart economic transformation by moving from investment ideas to actual implementation
- Direct investment to companies (mainly SMEs)



*I3 Instrument supports SMEs to be internationally competitive whilst at the same time addressing actual pan-European unmet needs and unlocking cross-sectoral and inter-regional markets.*

● Magnus Wallengren, Digit Pre project

# I3 Instrument Overview & Achievements

## Calls Launched:

-  **Nov 2021:** Innovation Support – 2 calls: Strands 1&2a
-  **Dec 2022:** Capacity Building – Strand 2b
-  **May 2023:** Innovation Support – 2 calls Strands 1&2a

## Open calls:

-  **Nov 2023 – Capacity Building call** - Deadlines for submission: 15 February 2024 (first cut-off date) and 14 November 2024 (second cut-off date)
-  **6 June 2024 – Innovation Support – new calls for Strands 1 & 2a**, Deadline for submission: 5 December 2024

## Achievements:

-  **34 running projects:** Granted from the 2021 & 2022 calls (consortium avg. size: 14 partners)
-  **€133M:** Funds allocated for innovation investment projects
-  **€13M:** Funds allocated for interregional innovations capacity-building
-  **>800 participants** from almost all EU countries applied for May 2023 calls, with nearly 50 proposals submitted



# Kohesio: discover EU projects in your region

<https://kohesio.ec.europa.eu/en/>

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- Martinique
- Mayotte

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REGION

POLICY

THEME

— ADVANCED FILTERS

TOWN

PROJECT COLLECTION

FUND

PROGRAMME TYPE

PROGRAMME

PRIORITY AXIS

TOTAL BUDGET

EU CONTRIBUTION

SDG

INTERVENTION FIELD

NUTS3

Results

Relevance

1 - 15 of 420795



**Working capital support for SMEs affected by temporary containment measures through the implementation of a support scheme by the National Revenue Agency (NRA)**

Competitiveness of SMEs **71 910 000,00 €** Total budget Jan 2021 - Dec 2024

The global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown measures put in place have led to a decline in the European economy and a decline in exports of goods and services. The expected increase in morbidity in the coming months calls for measures...



**Promotion of Latvia's international competitiveness in tourism**

Competitiveness of SMEs **20 939 518,19 €** Total budget Apr 2016 - Dec 2024

The aim of the project is to develop the international competitiveness of Latvia as a tourism destination in the priority tourism sectors – business and event tourism, well-being tourism and promote local tourism. The increase in the export of Latvia...



**Scale-up Denmark**

Competitiveness of SMEs **19 517 235,14 €** Total budget Jan 2015 - Jun 2020

Scale-up Denmark The objective of Scale-up Denmark is to create more high-growth companies by strengthening regional specialisation within the business sector, so that the regions' strength positions are supported. The initiative is inspired by Team ...



**National project NPC in the regions**

Competitiveness of SMEs **44 786 717,20 €** Total budget Jul 2017 - Oct 2023

The main objective of this project is the establishment of an institution providing comprehensive, systematic support and expert advice for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs as well as for those interested in entrepreneurship (including disadva...



**ADVISORY — ANTITUMOR DRUGS AND VACCINES FROM THE SEA**

Research and innovation **11 806 398,00 €** Total budget Nov 2018 - Dec 2020

THE AIM OF THIS PROJECT IS TO PUT IN PLACE A NEW METHOD OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, WITH A VIEW TO OPEN INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING, BY PUTTING IN PLACE THE VARIOUS REGIONAL PLAYERS OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF ONCOLOGY, WITH ...



Visit [INFOREGIO](#) for more information:

Thank you

