



2026

EUROPEAN HYDROGEN ENERGY CONFERENCE

SEVILLE

11th · 13th March 2026



The importance of R&I in boosting the European hydrogen competitiveness

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European Hydrogen Energy
Conference 2026
13 March 2026

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP



Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

EU Institutional Public-Private Partnership (IPPP)

Stakeholder
Group

States
Representative
Group



**Industry
Association**
more than 620
members

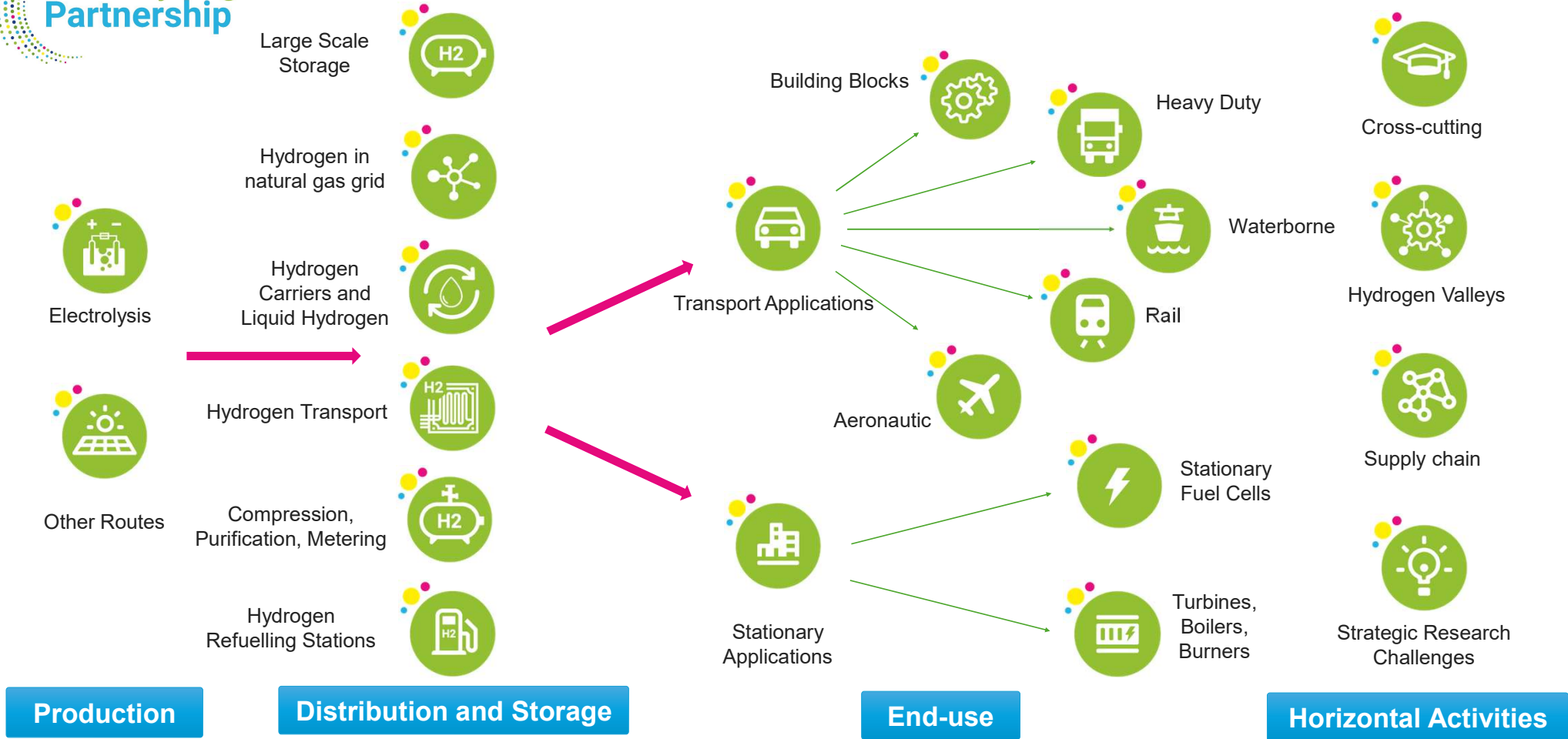


**Research
community**
more than 160
members

1 billion EURO from Horizon Europe* to implement R&I activities and facilitate the transition to a greener EU society through the development of hydrogen technologies

*** additional 200 million EURO for Hydrogen valleys (under RePowerEU)**

SRIA: Research & Innovation Activities, 2021-2027

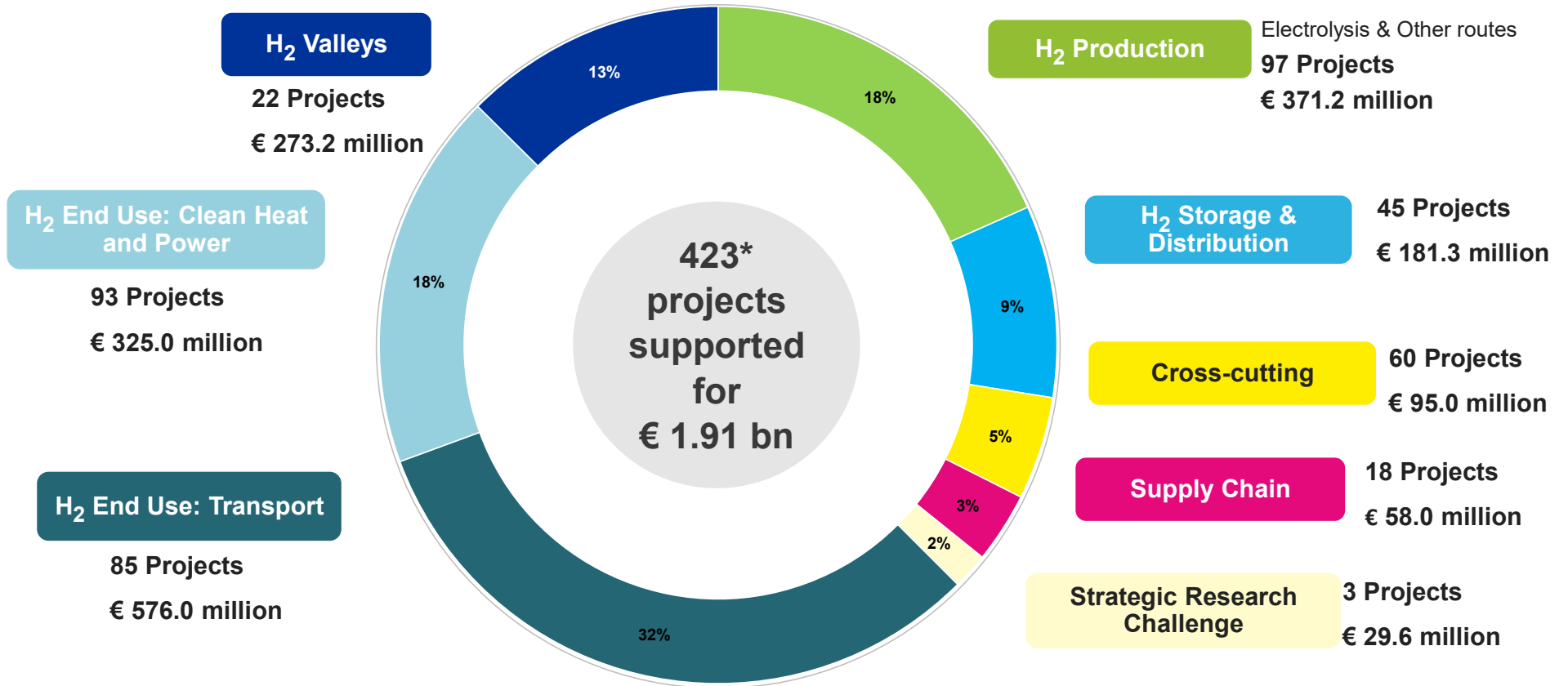


17 years journey of the Joint Undertaking

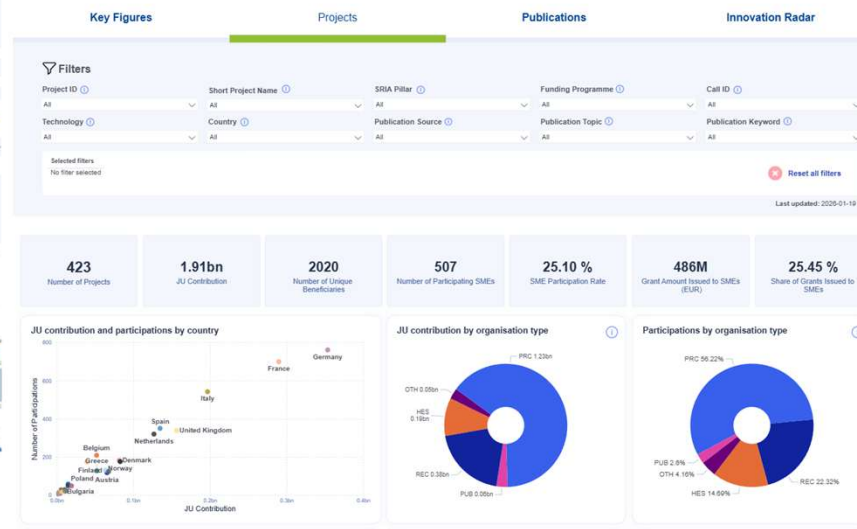
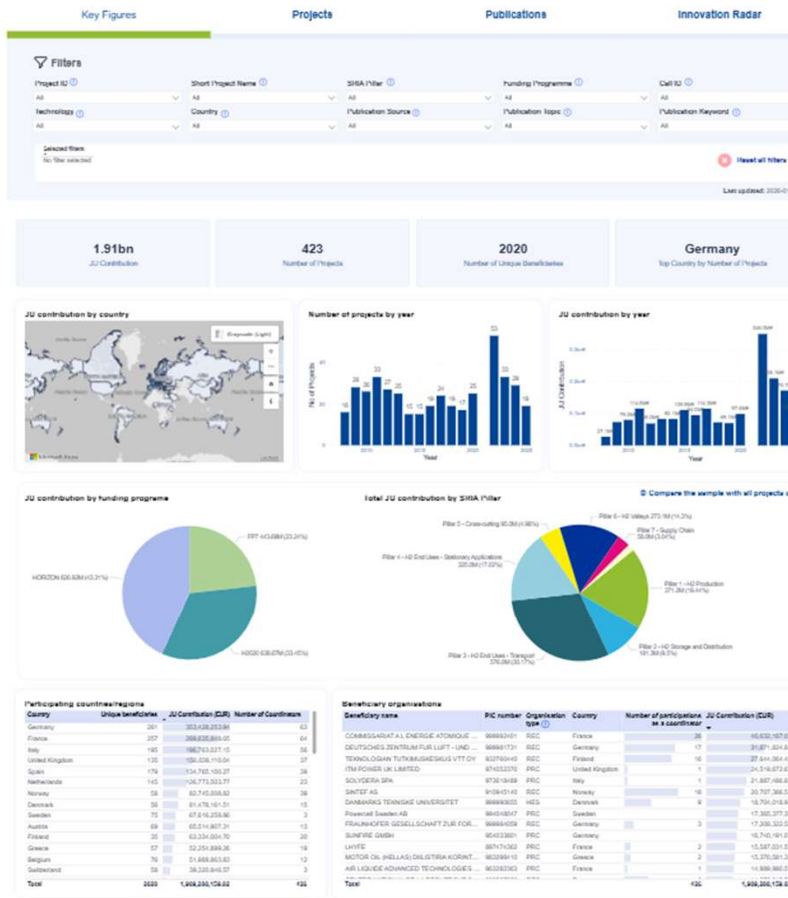
From research to delivering solutions in the market



Clean Hydrogen JU Programme (cumulative)



Additional information available via the Clean Hydrogen Partnership Project Dashboard



Competitiveness: in the ‘JU DNA’



• Partnership as a competitiveness enabler

- The JU fosters collaboration across the hydrogen value chain, involving industry, research institutions, and policymakers



• Driving....

- Strengthening the competitiveness of the EU hydrogen value chain with attention to both SMEs and industrial players;
- Stimulating research and innovation to improve cost-effectiveness, efficiency, and scalability of clean hydrogen technologies.



•...and monitoring competitiveness

- The JU monitors progress through Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) focusing on cost reduction, TRL improvements and market uptake of innovations;

What is at stake



Strengths

- Leadership in electrolysers
- Strong patent position
- Focus on quality, reliability, sustainability



Weaknesses

- Dependence on critical raw materials
- Higher production costs vs competitors
- Regulatory and permitting complexity



Opportunities

- Up to 1M jobs by 2030
- Potential global hub for renewable H₂
- Supportive EU policy framework



Threats

- Risk of losing leadership (PV precedent)
- Delays in industrial scale-up
- Lack of global champions

Some success stories

Bringing hydrogen buses to new cities across Europe



Building the standards to power Europe's hydrogen economy



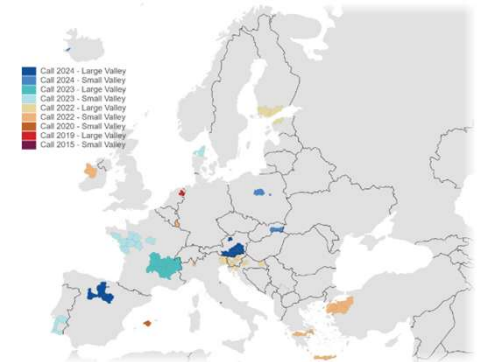
Hydrogen Valleys: Powering innovation and regional growth across Europe



Pushing the boundaries of hydrogen combustion in gas turbines



On the road to zero emissions: Advancing MEA performance for fuel cell vehicles



Support to SMEs and to the scaling-up of electrolysers



H2SITE – start-up born in Bilbao as a spin-off from TECNALIA and TUE, focusing on process intensification. Owns two patent applications coming from projects FERRET and HYGRID.

HERMES



" Building on over a decade of European research, H2SITE has transformed cutting-edge innovation into a market-ready solution, delivering clean and cost-competitive hydrogen exactly where it's needed efficiently, sustainably, and locally."
 H2SITE CEO Andrés Galnares

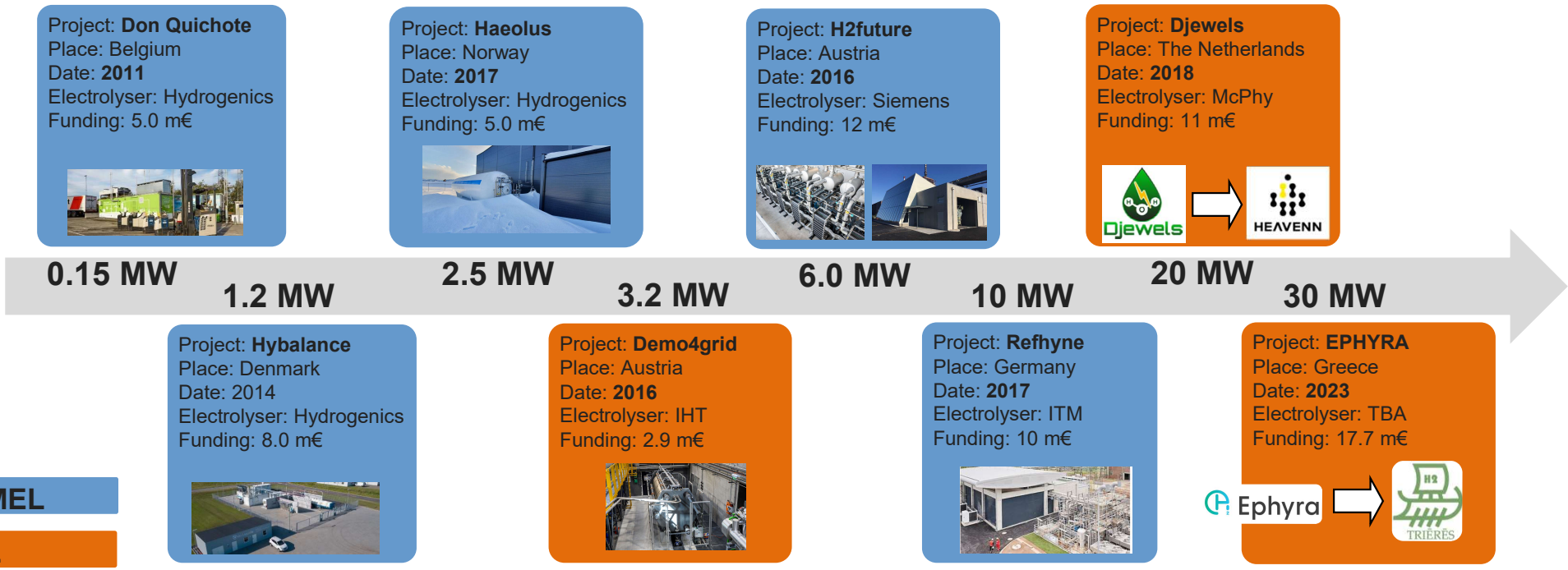
"By funding each step of the innovation pathway, we've helped turn promising technologies into bankable industrial solutions and European start-ups into global players."
 Valérie Bouillon-Delporte, Executive Director of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership



Low Temp Electrolysis Demonstration projects

In 12 years electrolyser capacity increased 200× and funding per MW installed reduced 100×

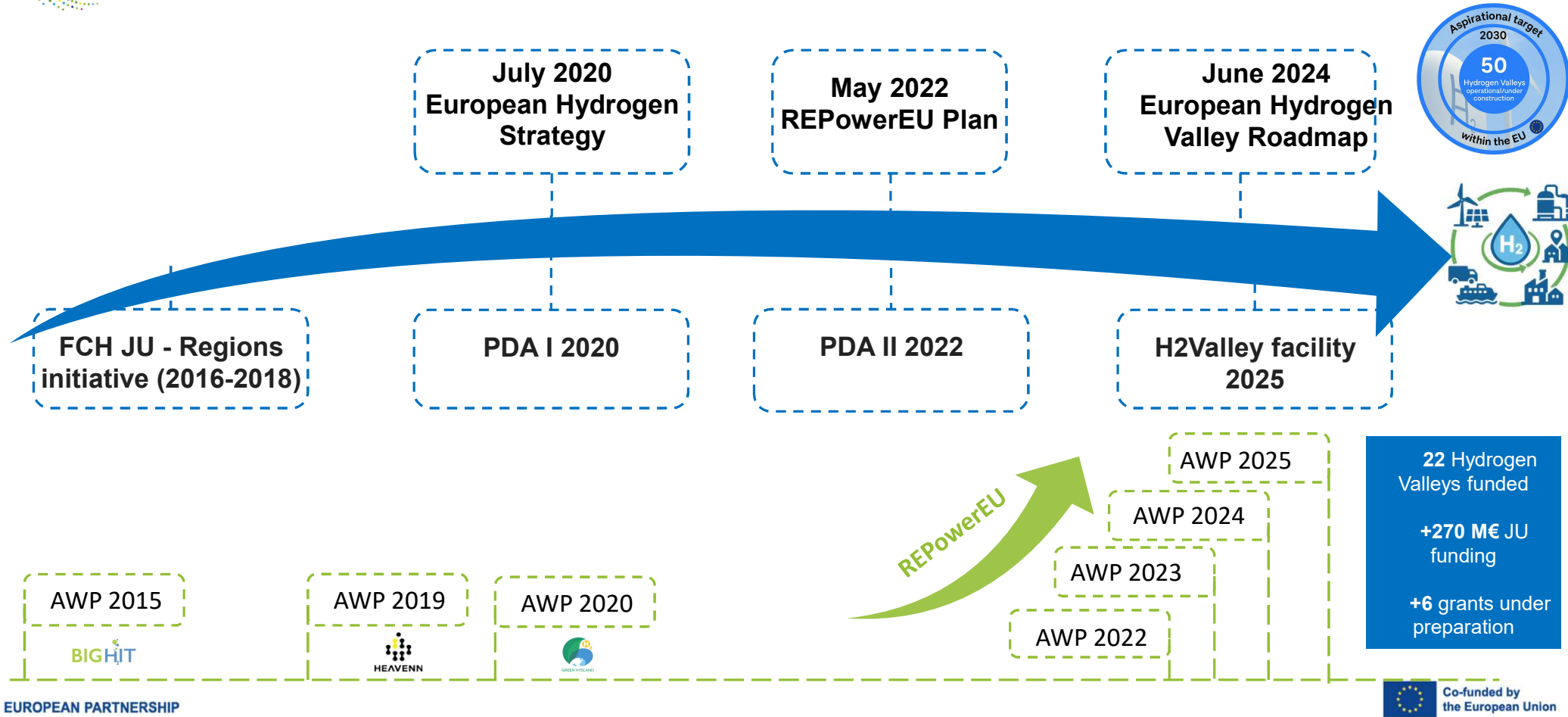
All facilities continue to operate after completion of each project



Till 2017 largest electrolyser projects globally

Working with Regions and Hydrogen Valleys

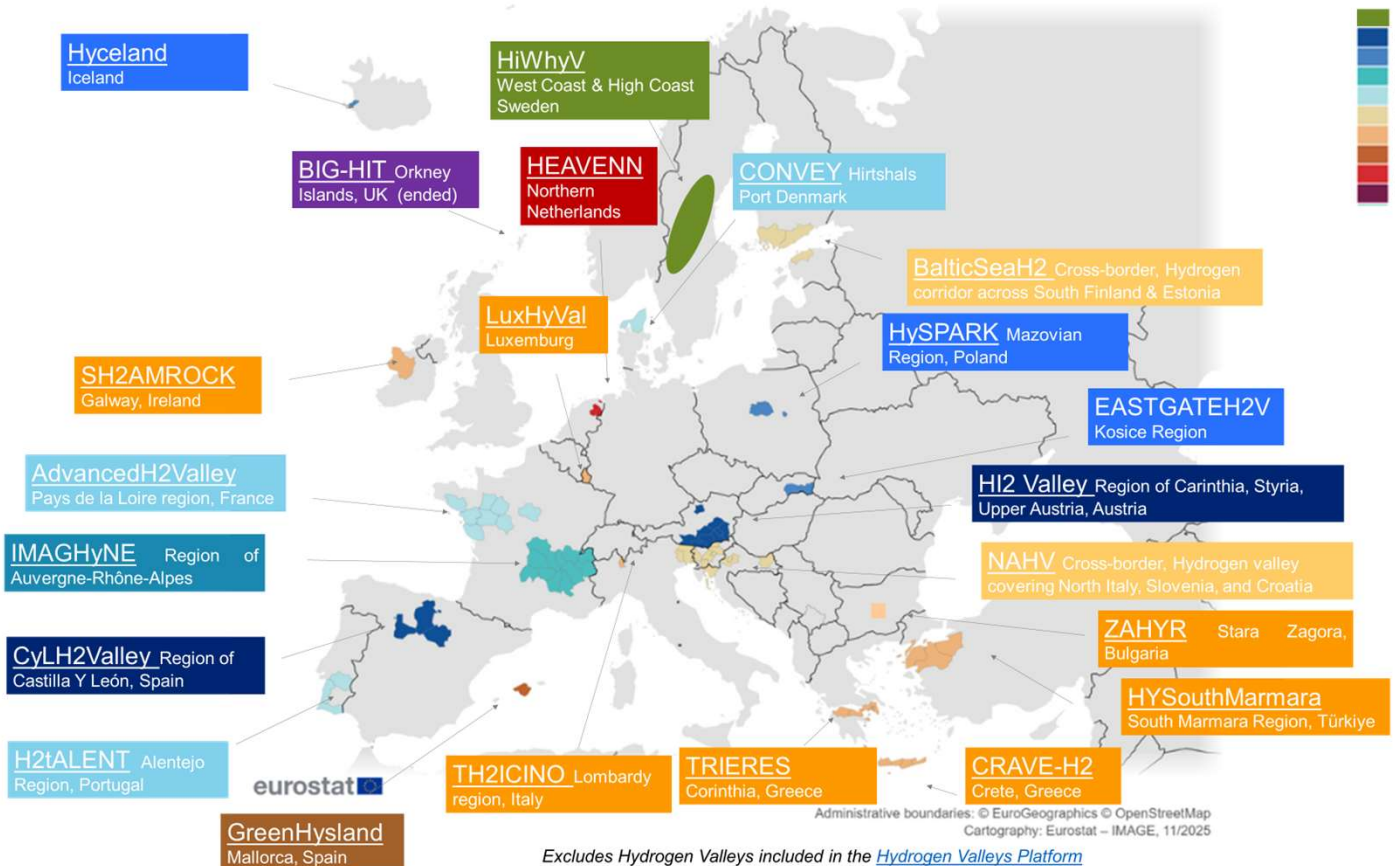
An evolving concept and priority





Repowering the EU with Hydrogen Valleys

Support to pre-FID activities & CAPEX



Total costs:
+1,300 M€

JU funding:
+270 M€

22 Hydrogen Valleys

Across 20 countries

Excludes Hydrogen Valleys included in the [Hydrogen Valleys Platform](#)
Excludes 6 Valleys Call 2025, currently being prepared


* Includes the ended BIG-HIT project
 * Excludes 6 grants under preparation



Hydrogen Valleys Facility: Accelerating the deployment of Hydrogen Valleys

The Hydrogen Valleys Facility

State as of 2025

65 

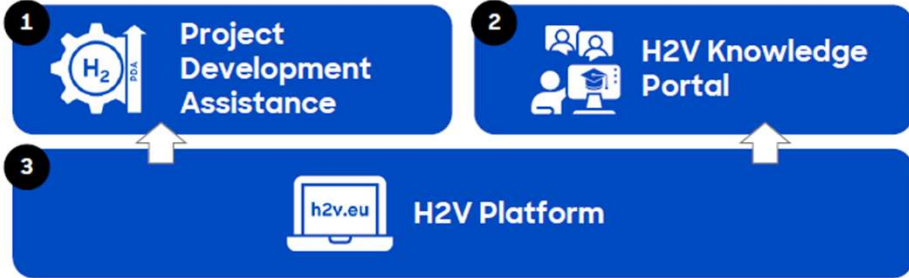
EU Hydrogen Valleys on the H2V Platform

14 

EU Hydrogen Valleys on the H2V Platform operational/under construction

Dedicated support via the **Hydrogen Valleys Facility**

by 



Delivery partners





Source: Roland Berger



The PDA support was in high demand – The first PDA wave supported 15 out of 36 applicants across Europe with dedicated expert support

Geographic distribution of PDA Beneficiaries of 1st PDA cohort



Source: Roland Berger

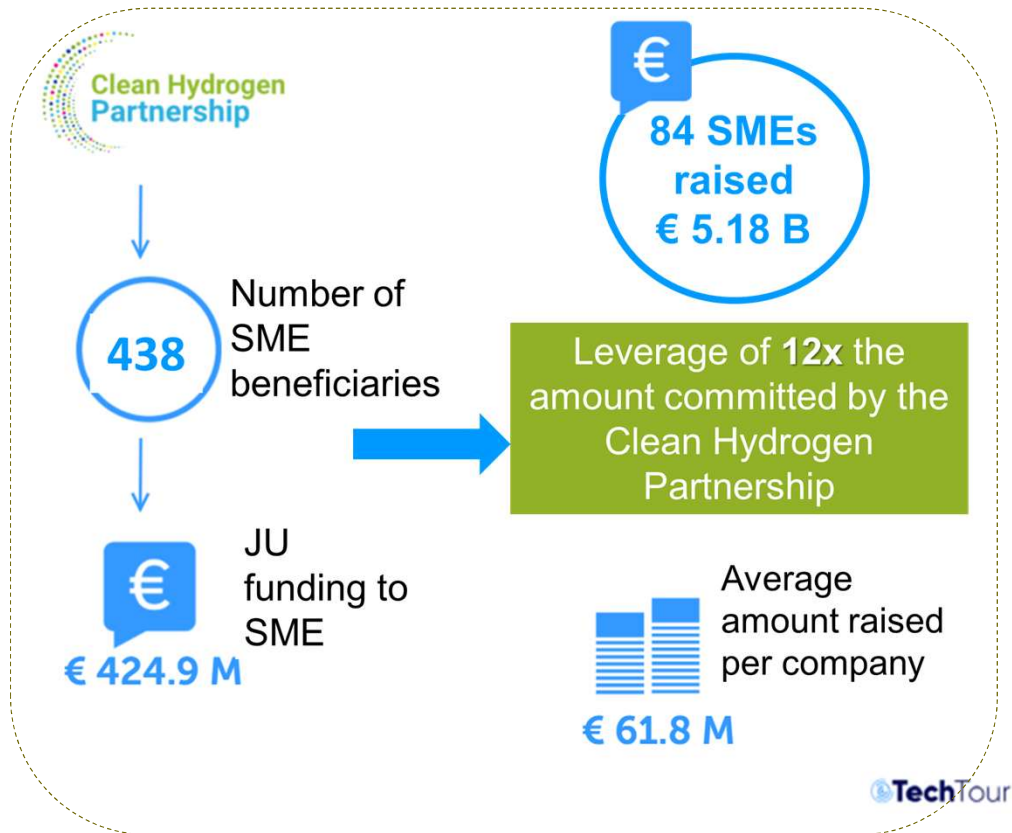
- ❑ Results of the First Call for Applications should be published soon
- ❑ Two additional Call for Applications expected

Call for Proposals 2026

Total budget: 105 M€
Publication date: 20 January 2026
Deadline: 15 April 2026



Other activities planned in the Annual Work Programme 2026 – European Clean Hydrogen Start-up Hub (start of the Hub planned for Q3-Q4 2026)



- Tender to set-up and run a European Clean Hydrogen Start-Up Hub aiming at accelerating and **accompanying the “translation” of research into investable start-ups, building the basis for scaling startups by connecting investment to hydrogen innovation** with corporates as key enablers, and building and consolidating European Hydrogen Innovation Corridors.
- The initiative shall **contribute to the European Commission’s planned Scale Up and Start Up strategy.**



THANK YOU



<https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/>

