

Panel I

**Collaboration across borders, from
nice to needed**

Firestarter

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Building European Innovation Corridors

Kristina Karanikolova (TNO)

Pannel: Collaboration across borders: from nice, to needed
Collaboration for Tomorrow – 'The Brabant Way' 26 March 2025



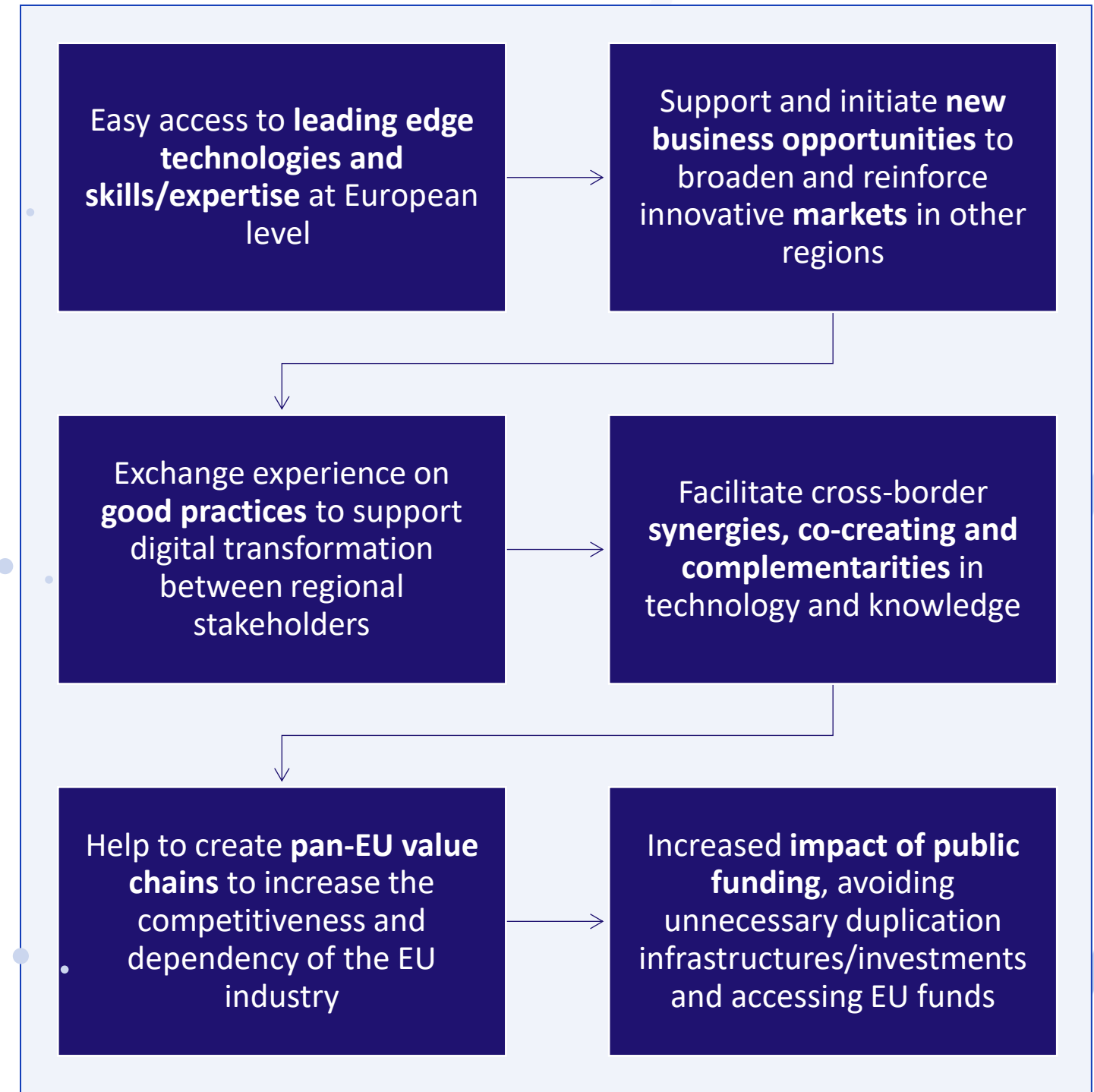
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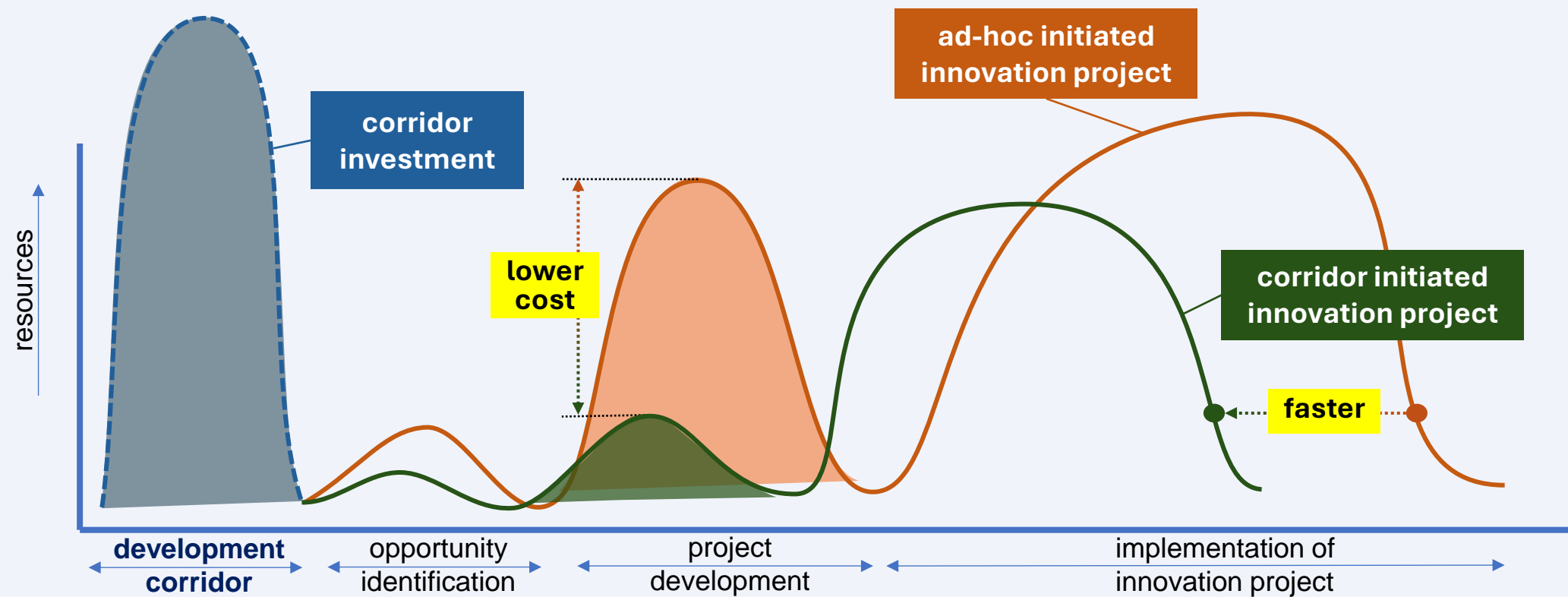
Why EU collaboration



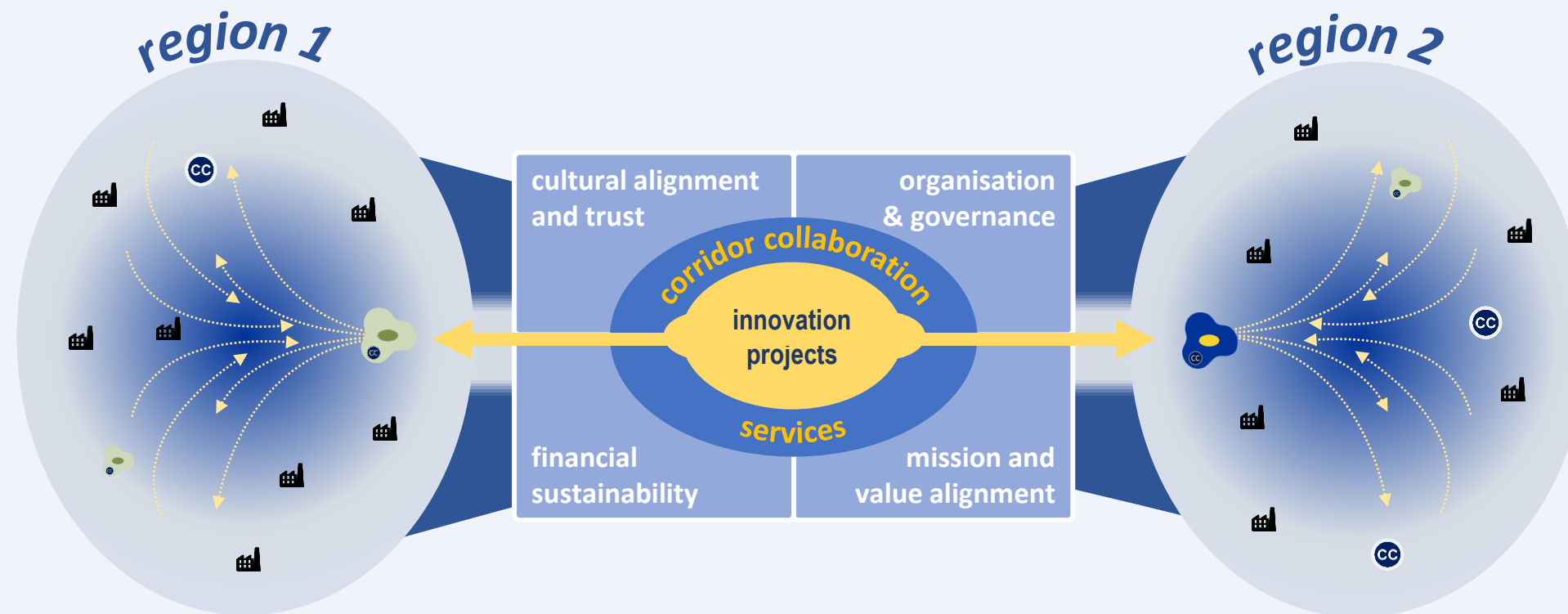
Challenges do not respect borders...
Collaboration isn't a "nice to have"—it's survival!



Corridors: to lower costs and speed up EU-collaboration



What are innovation corridors?



You are a key player – take the challenge!

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Collaboration across borders, from nice to needed

- **Lieke van Alphen Buscardini**
Senior Advisor EU Public Affairs, Province of Noord-Brabant / Vanguard Initiative
- **Sophie Bourez**
Co-director, Wagralim
- **Jitka Vocaskova**
DG GROW, European Commission
- **Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė**
CEO, AgriFood Lithuania / Vice President European Cluster Alliance

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Lieke van Alphen Buscardini

Regional authorities are key drivers of competitiveness: the example of Vanguard Initiative.

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Sophie Bourez

Agrifood value chains do not stop at borders - Interregional collaboration is not an option; it is a necessity to innovate, industrialize, and secure Europe's food sovereignty.

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Jitka Vocaskova

Collaboration across borders is not only needed – it is needed more than ever to address the challenges we are facing

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Collaboration across borders, from nice to needed

Kristina Šermukšnytė-Alešiūnienė

Interregional collaboration is essential for Europe's competitiveness. Platforms like ECCP and the leadership of ECA help connect ecosystems, scale innovation, and turn policy into impact. To succeed, continued EU support and renewed commitment from regional and national authorities are crucial to empower clusters as drivers of transformation and resilience.