

European Competitiveness Fund proposal

ECF Seminar in Riga, Latvia

[...]

Why ECF?

“The current offer of EU funds does not provide **large-scale, seamless funding support** on the entire investment journey to address market failures...

...with insufficient **flexibility** to respond to unforeseen needs...

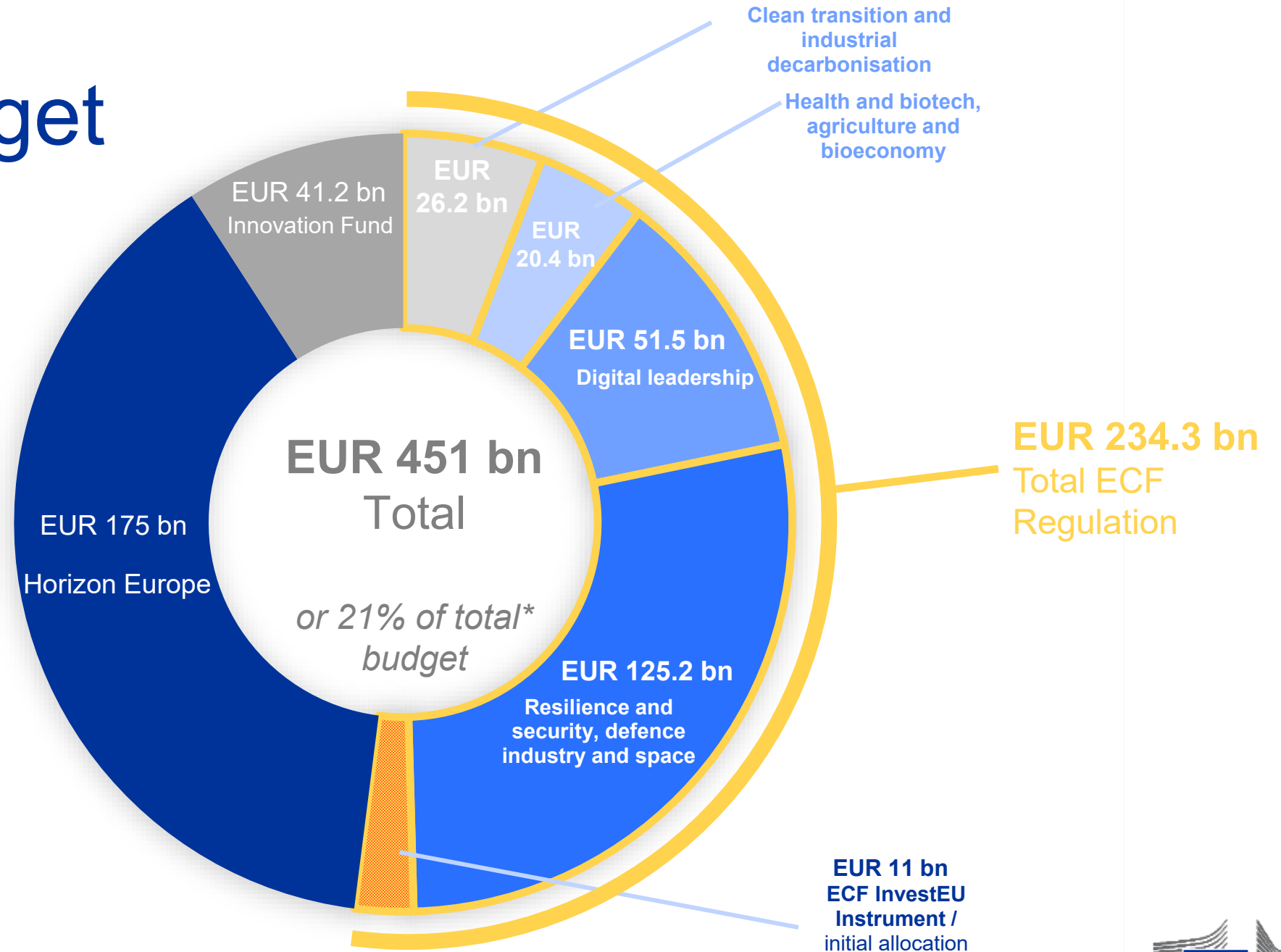
.. it is also **insufficiently linked** with other sources of public (national, regional, local) and private funding, which themselves are very fragmented...

.. there is a financing and investment gap in the latter stages of innovation, development and scaling up of companies, in strategic sectors essential for supporting the competitiveness of the EU economy, including the “**valley of death**” **scaling-up problem**..”

Impact assessment on the ECF



ECF Budget



* excluding Innovation Fund

Key features



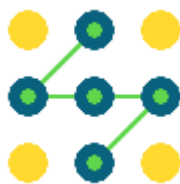
SCALE

Pulling together **investment power of € 451 billion** at EU level for our industrial leadership in strategic sectors.



IMPACT

To deliver one powerful financial toolbox to leverage and mobilise private investment.



SEAMLESS INVESTMENT JOURNEY

To fund entire investment journey from research to scale up, and global manufacturing.



SINGLE RULEBOOK

To simplify rules and make funds get faster to applicants.



POLICY COHERENCE

To ensure coherence between industrial and research policies.

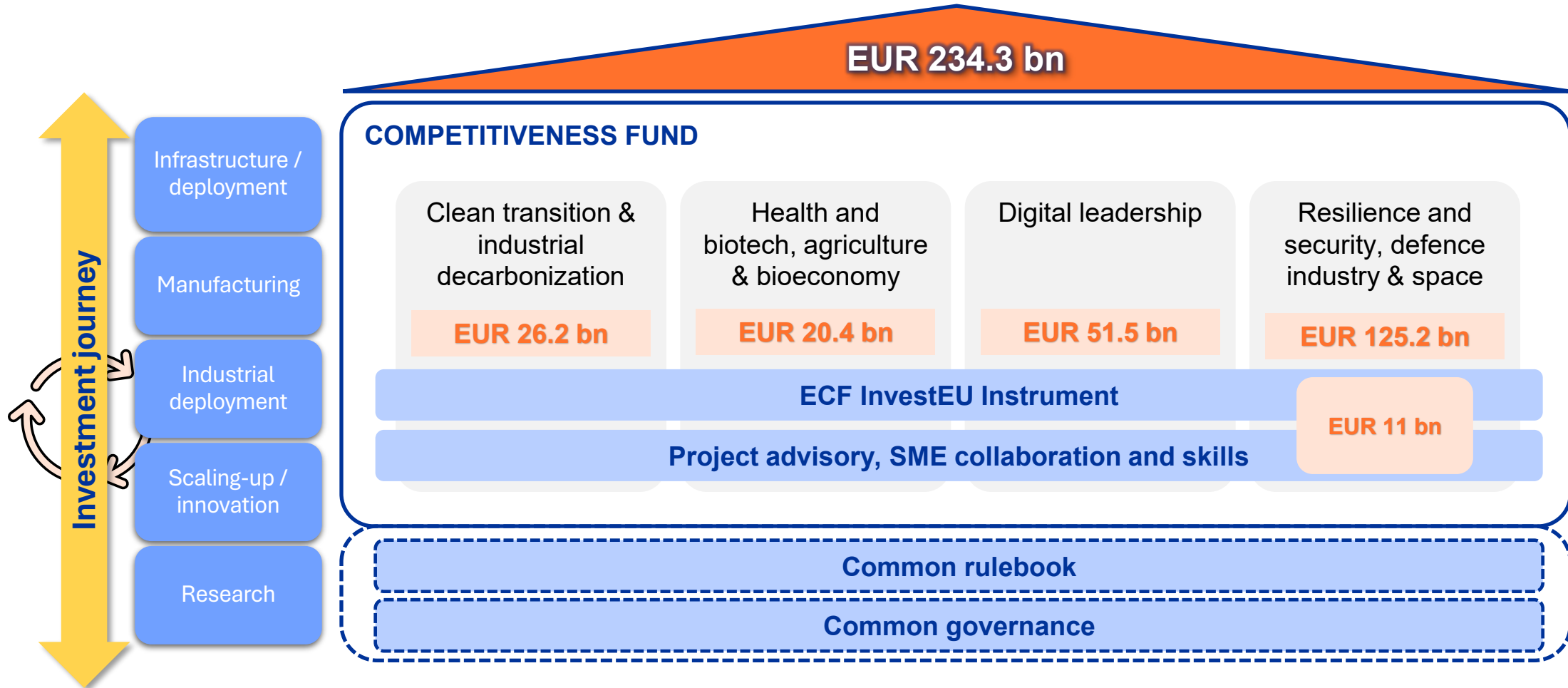


AGILITY

To react quickly to new priorities.



ECF architecture



ECF Toolbox

Grants, procurement and industrial policy coordination tools

- Work Programmes
- Accelerated and Targeted Actions for Competitiveness
- Single Market value chains builder
- EU Tech frontrunners
- Production Ramp up actions
- Top Ups for IPCEIs

ECF InvestEU Instrument

- Budgetary guarantee
- Financial instruments
- Blending operations
- Support to start-ups and scale-ups
- EU and Member States Compartments

Single Market value chains builder (Article 16)

- Objective: strengthening the resilience of EU value chains.
- Focus on scaling-up and integration of suppliers, manufacturers and innovators from different Member States.
- A possible example of implementation: dedicated value-chains scale-up calls implemented in two phases: (1) project preparation (2) crowding in additional investment



EU Tech Frontrunners (Article 17)

- Objective: identifying and supporting leading tech companies in the EU, leveraging their role as innovation and export drivers, to strengthen their global competitiveness as well as that of their SME suppliers.
- Multi beneficiary: industry-led consortia.
- Implementation: open, two-stage bottom-up calls.
 - Stage 1: open call for expression of interest for goods, works, services contributing to Union competitiveness;
 - Stage 2: analysis and crowding in of additional public and private capital.
- Proposals evaluated based on common award criteria.
- Evaluation committee determines the most appropriate instrument of budget implementation and proposes the maximum amount of Union contribution with a view of crowding in additional public and private capital.



ECF InvestEU Instrument

Budgetary guarantee and financial instruments

- Maximum amount of budgetary guarantee: **EUR 70 billion** (can be increased by up to 20%).
- Minimum amount under ECF InvestEU Instrument: EUR 17 billion (non-thematic support).
- To be increased by contributions from the policy windows.

Exclusivity clause

- InvestEU as only instrument for budgetary guarantees and financial instruments for internal policies.

Privileged option

- Available to the four policy windows.
- To unlock additional public and private investments.

Scale-up facility

- Targeting high-growth SMEs, small mid-caps and mid-caps.

Open architecture

- Relying on implementing partners including the EIB Group, international financial institutions and national promotional banks.



Building on the InvestEU Programme

Key for mobilising investment

InvestEU approved finance set to mobilise EUR 300 bn of total investments (of which 70% private)

Expected to support 1 million SMEs and small mid-caps

Expected to create 1.8 million jobs

InvestEU inspired design

Consolidation of programmes

Policy windows

EU and MS Compartments

Advisory services

Ensuring continuity

Pillar assessed implementing partners

Relevant financial products

Monitoring & reporting tools

Legal & contractual arrangements templates



Project Examples



[Latvia Military Base](#)

With the help of **InvestEU Advisory Hub**, Latvia will develop a **military base** and training area in Selonia region, along with a storage facility in Kuldīga Municipality.

The **EIB** advisory services include assessment and preparedness a potential PPP for this defence project which will strengthen Latvia's national defence capabilities.



[Promoting tech innovation and high-growth companies in Latvia](#)

Through the **InvestEU Advisory Hub**, the **EIB** will advise Latvia's Ministry of Economics and the Investment and Development Agency (LIAA) on driving the conditions for more **competitive and scalable companies**. The initiative will also provide the grounds for deeper alignment with Latvia's neighbours, Estonia and Lithuania, to foster strategic Baltic-wide cooperation.



[Aerones: robotics transforming wind energy maintenance](#)

EIF is helping Latvian company Aerones in revolutionizing wind turbine maintenance with **advanced robotics**, replacing time-consuming manual work with efficient, high-precision solutions. Aerones is making wind power more efficient and accessible, helping drive the transition to a cleaner future.



[Increasing Latvia's wind power \(Smiltene\)](#)

EBRD and **NIB** finance large-scale wind farm in Latvia. The project will be **one of the largest wind farms in Latvia**, increasing the country's wind power capacity by 80 %. It will help to diversify Latvia's energy mix and support the country's plans to increase the share of renewables in its electricity consumption.



Horizontal and cross-cutting activities

Project advisory

- Advisory for the identification, development, structuring, procuring and implementation of investment projects.
- Capacity building.
- Market development activities.

Business acceleration services

- Facilitating access to ECF funding.
- Matchmaking with private investors.
- Promoting financial literacy of entrepreneurs.

EU4Business Network

- Building on the Enterprise Europe Network and the European Cluster Collaboration Network.
- Offering advisory and partnership services free of charge to SMEs.

SME actions

- Dedicated, sector-specific actions targeting start-ups, SMEs and small midcaps under each policy window.

Support for skills development

- Supporting skills development in strategic sectors.

Beneficiary service desk

- Single electronic data interchange area for participants comprising all ECF activities.

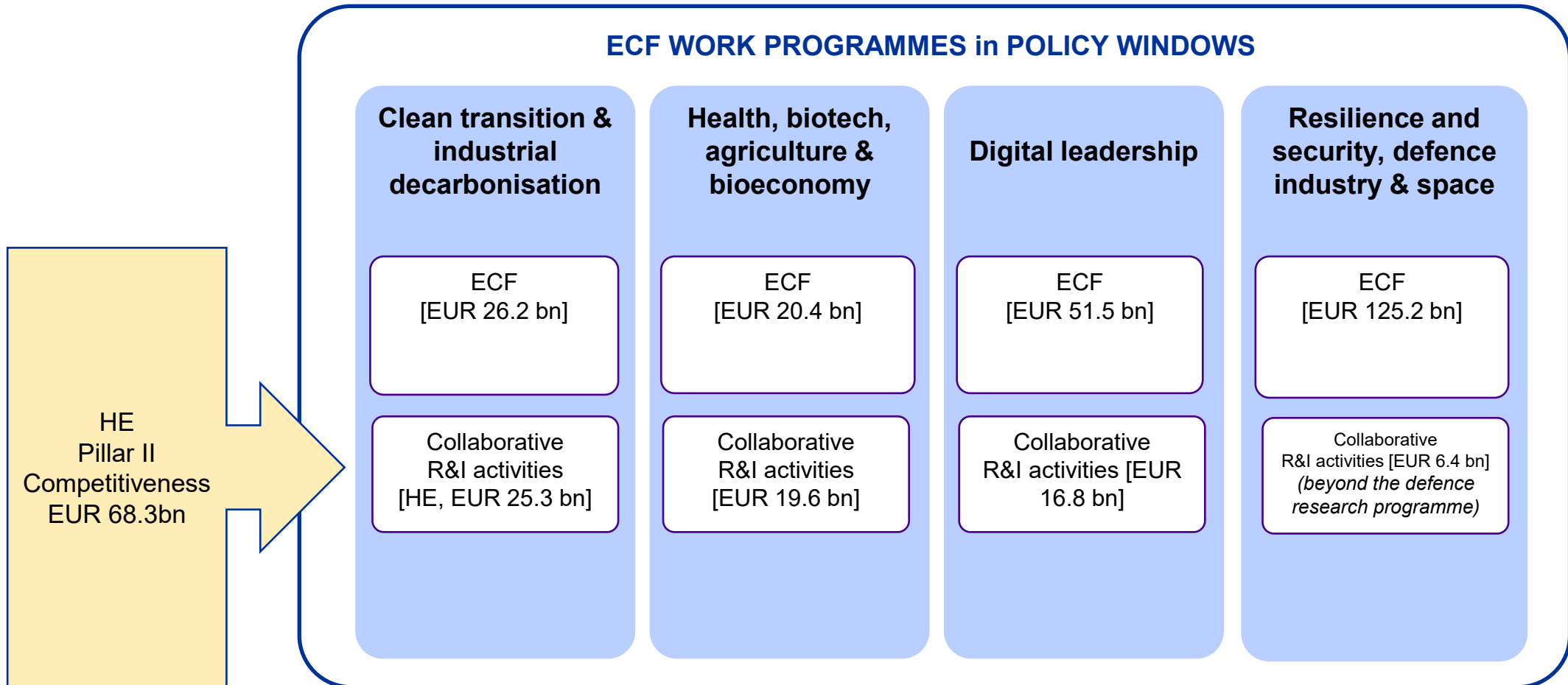


Project advisory

- Building on the work of the InvestEU Advisory Hub.
- Available for repayable and non-repayable instruments across all policy windows.
- Provided by advisory partners and service providers.
- Centralised access to advisory and business acceleration services, which may include:
 - Investment advisory services, including advisory support for the identification, preparation, development, structuring, procuring and implementation of investment projects, as well as capacity building and market development activities.
 - Business coaching and acceleration services targeting potential ECF beneficiaries.
- Contributing to the generation of project pipeline and development of potential investment projects under the ECF InvestEU Instrument.
- Cooperation with industrial alliances, European clusters and EU for Business Network.
- Project advisory shall be available under each policy window.



Integrated work programmes: Budget



Thank you

Find out more on the ECF website



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