

## ILIANA IVANOVA MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## ELISA FERREIRA MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Dear Sir, dear Madam,

We would like to thank you for your region's interest in becoming a Regional Innovation Valley through the Call of Expression of Interest launched by the European Commission on 28 March 2023 (1).

By bringing together a range of regions across Europe with different innovation levels and linking up their key innovation actors, the Regional Innovation Valleys initiative aims to bridge the innovation gap in Europe, strengthen regional innovation ecosystems, and improve Europe's overall innovation performance, in line with the objectives of the New European Innovation Agenda and Cohesion Policy.

We are pleased to inform you that your region has demonstrated a clear commitment to enhancing the coordination and direction of its R&I investments and policies in support of major societal challenges of key EU interest, such as reducing dependence on fossil fuels, mastering the digital transformation (including cybersecurity), improving healthcare, promoting circularity and increasing food security.

Therefore, the European Commission is awarding the Regional Innovation Valley Label to your region. You will find it attached to this letter.

We thank you for your commitment and encourage you to continue to pursue a strategy that will increase your region's innovation and competitiveness, and with that the competitiveness of your country and the EU. We also count on your region's active participation in the Regional Innovation Valley community events and policy activities in the future. We invite you to follow <u>our website</u> for updates on community building activities, matchmaking events, targeted communication actions, and upcoming calls.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>Call for expression of interest for Regional Innovation Valleys - European Commission (europa.eu)</u>

Elisa Ferreira
ioner for Cohesion and Reforms