

# Position Paper



BAS4ICT Position Paper on the  
Public Consultation: EU's Next Long-  
Term Budget (MFF) – Implementing  
EU Funding with Member States  
and Regions

**March 2025**

# Introduction

## **Empowering SMEs through Digital and Regional Innovation**

BAS4ICT SRL, based in Brussels, actively participates in shaping EU funding discussions. We support businesses—especially SMEs—in their journeys toward digital transformation, operational excellence, and sustainable innovation. Through our participation in EU public consultations, including on the next long-term budget (MFF), we provide expert recommendations that reflect the needs of regional and SME actors.

This document outlines our recommendations for the future EU multiannual financial framework, focusing on digital transformation, regional innovation, and support for SMEs.



# Key Points



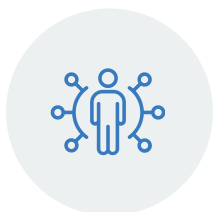
## Support for Digital Transition

The Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 should guide EU fund allocation. BAS4ICT believes SMEs and local actors need access to affordable digital tools, training, and support. This access boosts innovation, efficiency, and resilience, helping businesses adapt to a changing digital world.



## Regional Disparities

EU funding must address the gap between developed and less-developed regions. Areas lacking digital infrastructure and expertise should receive targeted aid. BAS4ICT supports funding that strengthens regional innovation ecosystems, providing the infrastructure, skills, and support needed for economic and social integration.



## Cross-Border Collaboration

Cross-border and multi-country projects are essential. They provide significant opportunities to tackle shared challenges like climate change, economic recovery, and digital transition. BAS4ICT recommends prioritizing EU funding for projects that unite Member States, ensuring shared benefits across the Union, especially in border areas.



## Simplification of Funding Access

A major barrier to EU funding is the complexity of application processes and regulations. BAS4ICT calls for simpler processes so SMEs, local governments, and regional stakeholders can access funds easily. Clear guidelines, standardized criteria, and streamlined procedures will help direct funding where it's needed.

# Recommendations

## Shaping Smarter EU Funding for Stronger Regional Impact



### **Align EU Funding with Key Priorities**

EU funding should focus on projects that support strategic EU goals like the Digital Decade, Green Deal, and Social Cohesion. This alignment promotes economic growth and enhances EU competitiveness.



### **Increase Regional Support**

Investment should target regional innovation ecosystems, especially those building digital capacity. Supporting regional projects that drive local digital innovation will help close the gap between regions and create a more equitable EU.



### **Simplify and Streamline Funding Governance**

Simplifying EU funding programs is crucial for accessibility. A more flexible approach to resource allocation and transparency in fund management will foster collaboration and efficient project implementation. BAS4ICT suggests reducing bureaucratic hurdles and providing real-time support for applicants, especially during crises like the pandemic or climate challenges.



# Conclusion

BAS4ICT is committed to engaging in EU policy discussions. We aim to ensure that EU funding effectively supports digital transformation, sustainable innovation, and regional cohesion. We advise the European Commission to consider our suggestions for improving EU funding processes. It is vital that all regions and sectors, especially SMEs and underdeveloped areas, are included in future EU initiatives. BAS4ICT is ready to help the EU's funding priorities and support regional stakeholders to maximize their potential through digitalization and innovation.



**Luc Masson**

BAS4ICT Administrator



# About BAS4ICT

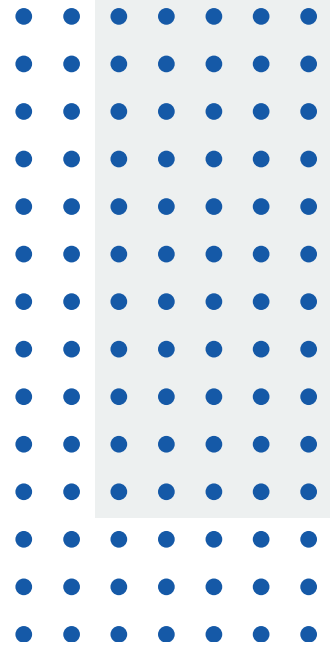
## Our Mission and EU Engagement

BAS4ICT SRL is a Brussels-based consultancy founded in 2014. We specialize in business transformation through innovative ICT solutions. Our services span strategic, operational, and specialized support, helping organizations enhance efficiency, drive digital change, and achieve long-term success.

We have supported EU-level missions, including those of the Directorate-General for Digital Services and the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content, and Technology, contributing to business process strategy and digital governance.

Our experience includes supporting the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy on significant programs like SFC2021 and Compass Corporate / MyWorkplace, spanning over €392 billion across 300+ programs.

Our work is guided by core values that define who we are and how we operate: Integrity, Innovation, Excellence, Client-Centricity, and Sustainability.



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