



CleanTech for CEE Manifesto

CleanTech for CEE

Accelerating Indigenous CleanTech Innovations in the CEE Region

Our Vision

We envision a self-sustaining cleantech ecosystem in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) that connects public and private actors to drive clean energy deployment, air quality improvement, and industrial competitiveness. By building strong local coalitions and fostering collaboration across borders, we aim to root cleantech innovation in regional strengths — and help deliver scalable solutions that are economically viable, socially equitable, and environmentally sound.

Why This Work Matters — Now

Amid geopolitical shifts and rising energy costs, national governments in CEE are prioritising security and competitiveness. However, air quality and clean energy are being sidelined unless the outcomes are directly linked to the positive economic and strategic objectives. The cleantech sector is seen as desirable, yet remains unsupported by a clear roadmap, dedicated funding, or coordinated policies. To effectively realize climate and economic goals, decision-makers in the CEE region need not only evidence-based strategies but also strong and open dialogue with market representatives to fully leverage the skilled workforce, local innovation, and policy incentives. By amplifying the voices of innovators, we enable meaningful dialogue with decision-makers, fostering impactful outcomes and more ambitious policies.

The Challenges

Despite significant potential, the region faces structural barriers:

- Fragmented public governance and insufficient cross-ministerial coordination
- Low fundraising or money absorption capacity among early stage cleantech ventures
- Under-commercialized academic research and minimal spin-offs
- High burden of ESG reporting with low actual environmental outcomes, leading to perceptions of greenwashing
- Limited integration of domestic technologies into FDI supply chains
- Absence of long-term sustainability mechanisms for cleantech networks

*These challenges require **collective, cross-sectoral actions**.*

Our Approach

We focus on creating enabling conditions for cleantech success in the CEE through:

- **Mobilising financing models** to attract both public and private capital
- **Supporting pathways for scaling innovation locally** through procurement and funding alignment
- **Integrating cleantech SMEs into wider industrial ecosystems and value chains**
- **Linking rural and urban stakeholders** through energy cooperatives and regional clusters
- **Building a community of innovators and investors**, empowered to take informed positions on policies that affect them.

Core Values

- **Partnership:** Promoting collaboration between public and private actors.
- **Local Empowerment:** Supporting the growth of locally rooted solutions by enabling pathways for innovation to scale.
- **System Integration:** Fostering the integration of cleantech into broader economic and industrial systems.
- **Regional Cooperation:** Encouraging inclusive collaboration across sectors and territories to advance the green transition.

Call to Action

- We call on **enterprises, investors, innovators, research institutions, governments, and civil society** to join forces in accelerating the clean transformation of Central and Eastern Europe.
- Together, we can move **from pilots to platforms, from potential to performance** - creating a clean, competitive, and connected region.

This is just the beginning. Let us lead Europe's green transition — from within.

