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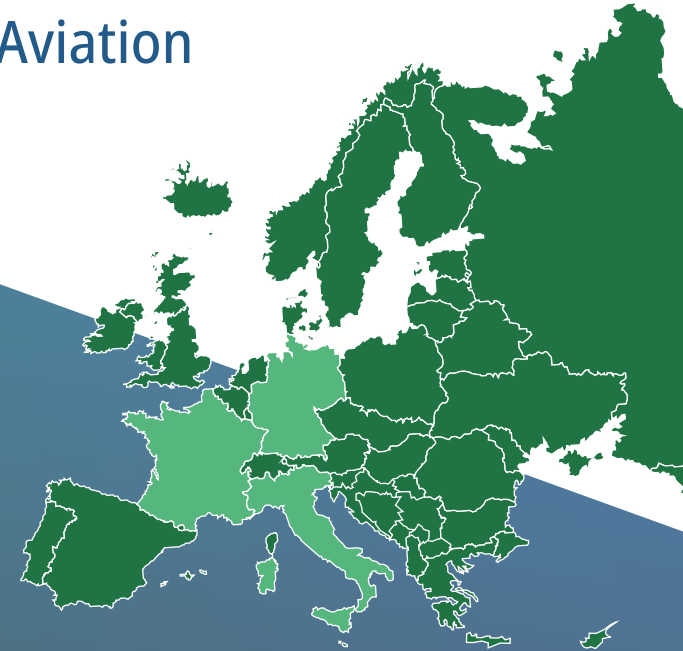
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A New Horizon: ECARE's Synergy Handbook for Decarbonized European Aviation



Designed by EASN-TIS



WHAT IS ECARE?

ECARE is a project aimed at creating funding synergies to accelerate the decarbonization of aviation.



This booklet is produced by ECARE (European Clean Aviation Regional Ecosystem), a project supported by Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking and its members.

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WHAT IS SYNERGY?



The ECARE project defines Synergy as a strategic collaboration between at least two funding bodies. The purpose is to generate financial leverage and enhance operational efficiency with the ultimate goal of advancing innovations to meet aircraft decarbonization objectives.

This booklet serves as a comprehensive guide for stakeholders seeking to replicate ECARE's synergistic approach to align European, national, and regional funding. Through a six-phase pathway, ECARE promotes collaboration, resource efficiency, and innovative project emergence by fostering strategic alignments, harmonizing processes, and creating impactful partnerships across the aviation ecosystem. Additionally, the ECARE Digital Platform and Taxonomy offer essential resources to simplify collaboration and fuel Europe's decarbonization goals in aviation.

The ECARE Toolbox

The ECARE Toolbox is a powerful collection of tools designed to drive strategic planning and collaboration in the European aviation sector. It enables stakeholders to map technical priorities, identify funding gaps, and draft roadmaps, ensuring alignment with Clean Aviation goals. Each funding body can set priorities within the ECARE taxonomy, producing visual outputs that clarify regional and national alignment.

The toolbox includes the **ECARE Digital Platform** and the **ECARE Taxonomy**, crafted to streamline the identification of funding opportunities, assess industry needs, and foster meaningful partnerships. Together, these tools create a cohesive, collaborative ecosystem that supports sustainable development across European aviation.

ECARE Taxonomy

Check it out here!



Created to establish a common language on technologies in the aviation sector, the taxonomy serves as a framework that organizes and maps competencies, funding, and projects across stakeholders, allowing for a cohesive approach in advancing aviation technology. The ECARE Taxonomy includes **24 key topics** and **214 subtopics** covering emerging areas such as electric, hybrid, and hydrogen propulsion.

ECARE Digital Platform



Join now!



The ECARE Digital Platform is an innovative tool that centralizes collaboration in the European aviation sector, offering a comprehensive view of funding opportunities, projects, and stakeholder expertise across regions. With an intuitive search engine, a stakeholder directory, and collaborative workspaces, it simplifies the process of connecting and coordinating efforts. This user-friendly platform empowers funding bodies to align their projects with Clean Aviation's decarbonization goals, driving a united path toward a sustainable future in European aviation.

ECARE Pathway to Synergy

The ECARE Pathway to Synergy offers a six-phase process for achieving synergies across funding levels in European aviation, built on four strategic pillars: strategic alignment, communication & transparency, harmonization of processes, and emerging funding opportunities.

Phase 6



Improvement of existing mechanisms allowing extra funding for projects already funded.

Phase 5



Emergence of projects answering funding opportunities and calls for expression of interest, based on a rigorous analysis of industrial needs.

Phase 4



Harmonization of processes will be achieved through an alignment of practices on rules and tools between funding bodies.

Phase 1



Evaluation of the ecosystem with the taxonomy positioning, mapping of funding opportunities, funded projects, and stakeholder competencies.

Phase 2



Strategic alignment entails discussions, presentations, and alignment of roadmaps by funding bodies, leading to the construction of complementary funding programs at regional, national and European levels.

Phase 3






Regular exchange between regional, national, and European funding bodies will permit to promote transparency and create joint communications.



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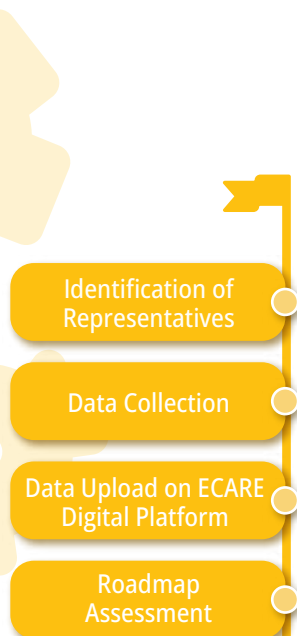
- Strategic alignment
- Communication & transparency
- Harmonization of processes
- Emerging funding opportunities

- Stakeholders 
- Cluster 
- Funding body 

PHASE 1

Evaluation of the Ecosystem

The first synergy involves mapping out relevant funding bodies, existing projects, and regional competencies using ECARE's digital platform and taxonomy. This comprehensive evaluation identifies areas for potential synergies and connects funding bodies with projects that align with regional needs. This phase is typically initiated by regional or national funding authorities aiming to identify all relevant stakeholders and set the groundwork for potential synergies with the Clean Aviation Joint Undertaking (CAJU).



Best Practice Example

The ECARE consortium conducted a comprehensive ecosystem mapping for four pilot regions. By collecting data on funded projects and stakeholder competencies through local clusters, ECARE created valuable references for Clean Aviation collaboration and set an example for other regions to follow.

PHASE 2

Strategic Alignment

In this second phase, funding bodies engage in strategic alignment to harmonize their goals and objectives. This process involves discussions among funding bodies to assess priorities, identify gaps, and align roadmaps, ensuring their strategies complement each other at regional, national, and European levels. By maintaining ongoing dialogue, funding bodies can develop coherent roadmaps that drive strategic goals, maximize funding impact, and lay the groundwork for harmonized processes and joint projects in later phases.



Best Practice Example

Campania and Hamburg provide strong examples of strategic alignment with European aviation goals. In Campania, collaboration with Clean Sky JU through an MoU and CA through a MoC identified shared priorities like single-aisle aircraft technologies and electric propulsion. These agreements effectively directed funding toward common objectives, fostering innovation and joint progress.

Similarly, Hamburg will allocate up to €128 million (2024–2027) to support regional projects with the “GATE: Green Aviation Technologies” program. These efforts are closely aligned with the Clean Aviation SRIA and were formalized through a 2024 MoC with CAJU.

PHASE 3

Regular Exchange & Joint Communications

ECARE proposes to facilitate regular exchanges between funding bodies to foster transparency and collaboration. At least two funding bodies from the same country agree to initiate these meetings, setting a mutually agreed frequency and objectives. The goals include sharing information on funding programs, identifying co-funding opportunities, coordinating joint communications, and facilitating collaborations among funded projects. These regular exchanges build on the strategic alignment from Phase 2, ensuring continuity in collaboration and maximizing synergy impact. These structured communications help identify joint actions, such as co-funding projects, Joint Information Days, etc., which maximize the impact of public investments.

Best Practice Example

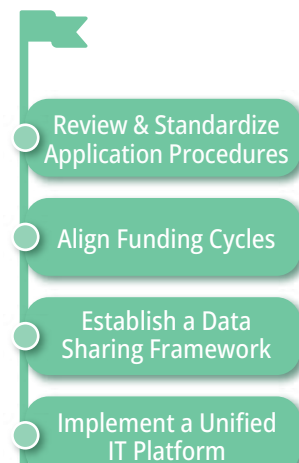
A strong example of Phase 3 in action is the **Consultative Committee in France**, which holds monthly meetings involving national, regional, and SME funding representatives. This committee reviews SME projects, explores co-funding opportunities, and directs projects to appropriate funding bodies. Another example is the **regional meetings in Occitanie, France**, where the Regional Council, Development Agency, and Aerospace Valley cluster collaborate regularly to discuss and support aviation projects, demonstrating the power of regular exchanges.



PHASE 4

Harmonization of Processes

To simplify the funding landscape, ECARE recommends to standardize application procedures and timelines across funding bodies. This phase reduces administrative burdens and enhances data-sharing capabilities, benefiting stakeholders at all levels, by creating standardized application and review procedures, aligning funding cycles, and establishing interoperable IT platforms. A key aspect is the potential to standardize reporting formats, which reduces the administrative burden on stakeholders, particularly SMEs, and ensures consistency in data collection and evaluation. By aligning practices, rules, and tools, funding bodies can facilitate the emergence of projects and enhance collaboration.



Best Practice Example

A notable example is the collaboration between **ECSEL JU** and the **Italian Ministry of University and Research** in 2015-2016, where joint calls were funded through EU and national resources. Although successful, differing bureaucratic processes highlighted the need for improved harmonization, such as having a single entity that manages the call to streamline operations.

PHASE 5

Emergence of Projects

This fifth phase focuses on enabling the emergence of projects that align with industry needs, particularly in Clean Aviation (CA) key technologies. Funding bodies and clusters conduct an analysis of industrial technical needs within their regions, using this information to shape funding calls and calls for expressions of interest. Clusters play an essential role in connecting funding bodies and industries, helping to identify technical needs, launch calls for expressions of interest, and foster collaborations. This process prepares local supply chains for new sustainable aviation technologies and encourages regions to participate in developing advanced aircraft solutions.

Best Practice Example

A successful example is **The Green Aircraft Challenge** in Occitanie, launched by Aerospace Valley after signing a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with Clean Aviation JU (CAJU). This call for interest included a jury of major industry players such as Airbus, Safran, and Thales, along with regional and national funding bodies. It generated over 30 project proposals, with selected projects invited to respond to validated calls. A similar approach was taken in Nouvelle-Aquitaine, demonstrating how coordinated calls and MoCs can drive impactful regional project emergence.



PHASE 6

Improvement of Existing Mechanisms

In this final phase, ECARE suggests to introduce new funding mechanisms, offering extra support to high-quality projects that align with Clean Aviation goals. This final phase of synergy implementation creates additional funding structures for projects that were either unfunded initially or require continued support. Led by funding bodies at regional, national, or European levels, this phase helps strong project proposals gain the resources needed to advance their innovative ideas.



Best Practice Example

In Bulgaria, the Ministry of Innovation and Growth has implemented a national scheme to support SMEs, awarded by the European Innovation Council's Seal of Excellence under H2020 and Horizon Europe. Launched under the Recovery and Resilience Plan, this scheme provides funding for innovative projects with future support planned under the ERDF program. This example shows how the SoE mechanism can facilitate sustained funding for high-quality projects, although a similar upstream SoE system for regional and national levels does not yet exist across Europe.

The ECARE project emphasizes the essential role of synergy in driving a sustainable future for European aviation. By aligning resources and streamlining funding, this amplifies investment impact, accelerates technological progress, and reinforces Europe's leadership in sustainable aviation.

Through its digital tools, taxonomy, and collaborative frameworks, ECARE reduces duplication, enhances funding efficiency, and supports a transition to low-emission aviation beyond the duration of the project.



The scalable, synergistic approach developed by the ECARE project serves as a model for all aviation regions in Europe, fostering a connected effort towards green aviation innovation.