

First results of the HER FUND project

A pan-European network of gender-conscious investors to support female-led companies for growth and sustainability

The HER FUND Project is excited to announce the completion of its first key step in the project journey: **Landscape Analysis and Mapping**. This phase focused on three main areas: assessing existing interventions by public and private funders in Less Connected Innovation Ecosystems (LCIEs) and Better-Connected Innovation Ecosystems (BCIEs), identifying start-ups' need for easier access to capital to support their growth and sustainability, and evaluating investors' entry challenges in LCIEs while identifying best practices in BCIEs.

The objectives of this phase included leveraging existing information (such as reports, initiatives, and platforms) to analyse what worked and what didn't. By engaging and collaborating with local stakeholders, this step aimed to gather valuable insights that would inform recommendations for improvement in both LCIEs and BCIEs. These inputs will be utilized in the next phase of the project, with guidance from the International Advisory Board.

The findings provided a comprehensive overview of the support and challenges faced by women entrepreneurs and highlighted the importance of gender-conscious investment practices.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps of the HER FUND Project include the co-design and co-development of programs, followed by experimentation and validation of these programs, and ultimately, acceleration and scaling.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

For those interested in a deeper dive into the project's findings, we invite you to explore the following deliverables:

- **D.1.1:** Report on the assessment of existing interventions by public and private funders in BCIEs and LCIEs.
- **D.1.2:** Report on the start-up needs for easier access to capital.
- **D.1.3:** Report on the investor needs for easier access to LCIE markets.

To access these reports and learn more about the HER FUND Project, visit our website: [HER FUND Deliverables](#).

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